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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk August 21, 2016
Mid edition No 726

EDUCATION

Heading off to university

A-level students make the grade

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There's much to admire and plenty to cheer...

TEAM GB have exceeded expectations at the Rio Olympics – achieving results many thought not possible and there's still more to come, as we go to press with, for example, the women's hockey team, which includes a number of players from the county, yet to play their final.

These inspiring results are directly related to the effort, sacrifice, dedication and single-mindedness of those taking part.

Whatever the sporting discipline, it has been the competitor's discipline that has seen them reach these incredible heights.

Whether they picked up golds, silvers, bronzes or not they have still taken part in the Olympics, which is an achievement in itself.

Our other stars this week are our A-level students.

Despite a number of colleges and schools across the country deciding to drop some A-levels courses, the number of students heading off to university has never been higher.

Their hard work and ability to deal with the pressure heaped upon them by both parents and schools is to be admired.

There are plenty of parallels to be drawn between our athletes and our students - but suffice to say they are all to be respected for their commitment and dedication.

Whatever your views on education, there can be no doubt that university is the first real experience of life as an adult many young people have.

They make mistakes, have fun, do some learning and very probably fall in and out of love for the first time - and all in what is a relatively secure environment.

It is a rite of passage and we wish all those going off to university for the first time the very best – enjoy it!

Elsewhere in these pages, fears over health services, the plight of our bees and rising rail fares raise their ugly heads.

Enjoy your weekend.

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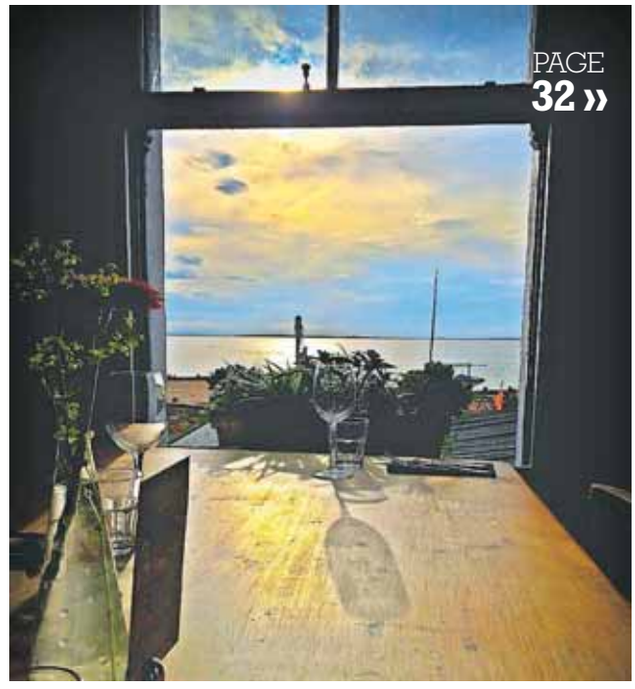

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MP given panic buttons in bid to step up security

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THREATENED: An emergency bunker could also be made available to South Thanet's Craig Mackinlay

A KENT MP could have a reinforced emergency bunker installed in his constituency office in a move to increase his personal security.

Craig Mackinlay, who represents South Thanet, was given four panic buttons this week to provide protection for himself, family and staff after receiving a death threat on social media earlier this year.

It is understood that pressing the buttons triggers a signal to a control centre, who have instructions to call the police, with detailed information including a GPS fix, who respond urgently.

They then call down a list of emergency contacts to try and ascertain the nature of the emergency.

And the South East Counter Terrorism Advisory Unit have also recommended a package of new enhanced security measures for his constituency office including a reinforced room in the basement for staff to retreat to in emergencies.

A source confirmed that further meetings about security occurred earlier this week.

It comes after the case against a Ramsgate man charged with making a "threatening" comment to a Mr Mackinlay on Facebook was dropped on Thursday.

Mark Verier, 28, of High Street, was charged with one count of sending offensive, indecent, obscene or menacing communications before being bailed to appear at Margate Magistrates Court.

The message, posted on the MP's wall on June 18, read: "Another MP that needs..." followed by emojis of a gun, a knife and a laughing face.

It came just days after Labour's Jo Cox was killed in her west Yorkshire constituency.

A police spokesperson said: "Having investigated the case the evidence was presented to the Crown Prosecution Service, who authorised a charge of malicious communications against the suspect. However, the CPS has since taken the decision to not continue with court proceedings."

Mr Mackinlay said this week: "CPS decisions are a matter for them but I'm very grateful to Kent Police for handling this matter with the seriousness and professionalism it warranted.

"I am continuing to upgrade security for my staff and family who face the brunt of attacks from so-called cyber-thugs."

Charity backs calls for councils to do more to tackle homelessness

CALLS for councils to do more to tackle homelessness have been backed by a Kent charity.

A Communities and Local Government Select Committee report published this week revealed an increase nationwide and said more resources needed to be allocated.

Indeed in Kent, Porchlight's latest figures show that the amount of people sleeping rough in the county has more than doubled in the past year, and the number of homeless young people has tripled since 2014.

The charity's rough sleeper team monitors the number of people found on the streets.

It's aware of 223 people who slept on the streets between April and June, compared with 106 people for the same period in 2015.

Of these, 34 were young people compared with just 11 in 2014.

"Ongoing cuts to local authority funding mean that frontline services, including street outreach and our supported housing projects, are under huge strain," said chief executive Mike Barrett.

"We welcome today's report because charities likes ours need political support if we're going to make any headway against the current homelessness crisis.

"The government needs to give local authorities in England the same duty as their counterparts in Wales – that is to prevent someone's situation from becoming so severe that they end up on the streets."

It echoes recommendations made by MPs in the report, which read: "It is not acceptable that the level of support offered to vulnerable people can vary significantly across the country.

"Councils have a duty to provide advice and guidance to such people, but too often this advice and guidance is meaningless and ineffectual."

Canterbury City Council, where the problem is particularly rife, were contacted for comment.

Family mourns for murdered teen with 'a priceless heart'

A TEENAGER murdered in south London has been named locally and described as having ''a priceless heart''.

Andre Aderemi, 19, from Chatham, was ''brutally stabbed several times,'' in Heather Way, South Croydon, according to witnesses.

Met Police officers in the capital have arrested three men, all aged 19, after being called to the scene at around 7.40pm on Tuesday, where he was taken to hospital by ambulance crews before subsequently dying.

Mr Aderemi's sister, Sheniqua, has set up a fundraising page where people can donate ''to give him the funeral he deserved.''

She added: ''He was passionate and had a priceless heart.''

Smoke fills flat after couple sleep with food still cooking

FIREFIGHTERS rescued two people from a smoke-filled flat and discovered them asleep with food still cooking on the hob.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service responded to a 999 call to reports of smoke billowing from the window of a flat in Mill Road, Gillingham at around 7.35pm on Thursday.

Crews from Rochester and Medway fire stations used a 13.5m ladder to reach a balcony, while a breathing apparatus team had to force entry into the property.

They found a man thought to be in his 40s and a woman in her mid 30s.

They fell asleep whilst leaving food cooking, before being walked to safety and given oxygen therapy by firefighters.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Majority control for Ukip after by-election win

UKIP has resumed majority control of Thanet District Council following a by-election victory this week.

In Northwood, the party took two district council seats vacated by Helen Smith and Konnor Collins, to bring Ukip's tally of the 56 total council seats to 29.

Ukip lost its majority in the council chamber last year following a series of defections in a row over Manston Airport. Chris Wells, leader of the council, which is the only Ukip-controlled authoirty in the UK, said: ''In a post-Brexit world, the media has asked what is the purpose of Ukip?

''And on the doorsteps the voters of Northwood have given their answer.''

Business 'onto a winner' as gaming fanatics flock to county's Pokestops

By Simon Allin
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BUSINESSES in Ashford that have become linked to the Pokemon Go craze have seen a big increase in footfall since the game's release.

Cafe Express and AMF Bowling are Pokestops – locations where people playing the game can collect items and place lures that will help them to catch Pokemon – and they are both reaping the benefits.

Bruce White, manager of Cafe Express on the High Street, said: "It has increased footfall a lot. We are getting more people for tea and coffee and for meals. It is bringing more footfall to this end of town – particularly youngsters."

The augmented reality game, which was released on July 13, has attracted criticism from some quarters for allegedly creating a public nuisance at certain locations - but Mr White has not encountered any negative viewpoints.

"Most people seem to approve of it," he said. "It gets people exercising and going out walking.

CRAZE: Pokemon

"One of our members of staff plays – he is out and about for two-and-a-half hours every evening, and he has got fitter."

Matt Moon, assistant manager at AMF Bowling, commented: "You get a lot of people come here and they will put on lures while they are rolling.

"A lot come in and buy a drink while they play. It has definitely helped business.

"People you see out now are people that you would not normally see out. I play it, and now I walk a lot more just because I am playing it."

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, advised businesses to make the most of the Pokemon Go phenomenon.

"There is always something new coming out and they have captured people's imagination like a compulsion," she said.

"If there is a Pokemon spot, it would not surprise me in the slightest that footfall has increased, and my advice would be to maximise any opportunity before it moves on.

"If it is bringing people into town centres in a positive way and is bringing them into shops, then we are onto a winner."

ROMANCE: Photo @TomBosworth

Olympic star pops question on Rio beach

SEVENOAKS-BORN Olympic star Tom Bosworth is celebrating today after his boyfriend accepted a marriage proposal on the Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro.

Mr Bosworth, who is representing his country in Brazil in the race walking event, and is a member of Tonbridge Athletic Club, popped the question on Monday to partner Harry Dineley.

The walker, who achieved a personal best in his race last week, finishing sixth with a time of 1:20:13, tweeted a photo of the proposal with the caption: "He said YES!!"

His now-fiance Mr Dineley later shared a photo of the ring, adding: "Ok then," which Mr Bosworth retweeted himself.

The proposal is not the first of its kind to occur at the Games, after Chinese diver Qin Kai asked his teammate He Zi to marry him moments after she was awarded her silver medal.

Fellow Team GB athletes such as Tom Daley and Greg Rutherford also took to Twitter to send the couple their congratulations.

See page 11 of this week's newspaper for full coverage of how Kent's athletes fared at the Olympics, as Team GB have surpassed all expectations in smashing their record number of medals.

Campaigners want consultation nullified

CAMPAIGNERS against a river Crossing east of Gravesend have called for the government to nullify a recent consultation, due to ''fundamental and irreconcilable differences''.

According to the Lower Thames Crossing Association, Highways England told consultation teams to inform the public that a second crossing at Dartford, viewed as an alternative, was not part of the consultation.

Five weeks into the consultation, government ministers assured locals that 'option A' was still on the table, stating it was, in fact, part of the consultation.

LTCA's Bob Lane said: ''Highways England denied the public the opportunity to give their views on Option A, despite the government minsters' statements to the contrary.''

Highways England's Martin Potts said: ''There was an opportunity for people to say in the consultation questionnaire if they didn't agree with our proposals.''

500-year-old village pub up for £115k sale

A GRADE II listed pub dating back to the 16th century has been put up for sale for £115,000.

Located in the village of Elham, Canterbury, the King's Arms has been run by its current owners for more than 13 years.

In 1605, the pub was believed to be known as the Sigmun Galli - Latin for Sign of the Cock - where it entertained the infamous sport of cock fighting.

The name was retained for over 200 years until finally, when cock fighting was banned during the reign of King William IV, it was renamed The King's Arms around 1830.

The pub boasts a beer garden to fit some 60 people and a courtyard area to the side and is split into two areas, with the main bar area to the front of the property and the restaurant to the rear.

James Hughes, business agent at the Maidstone office of Christie & Co, the firm handling the sale, said: ''The Kings Arms is located in a lovely village and possesses all of the charm and character that you would want in a pub.''

Planning chiefs set to examine junction 10A

PLANS for a junction south of Ashford on the M20 are gathering pace after the government accepted proposals for examination.

The junction, which will be known as 10A, will be 700 metres south east of the existing junction 10 for Ashford, and will reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability and road safety, according to Highways England.

Proposals were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate last month and they will now be reviewed with the aim of beginning construction by the end of March 2018.

The new junction will include a roundabout over the motorway, new slip roads and a new link road to the A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road, with junction 10A partially signalised with two three-lane bridges.

The project, which could cost up to £85 million, is expected to be completed by the end of March 2019.

It comes after KCC last week sought views on a £400 million plan to get more Dover-bound traffic using the M2 and A2 to ease problems on the M20.

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Dreamland chief executive to step down as pressure grows

By Tom Pyman
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THE chief executive of Margate's troubled theme park, Dreamland, is resigning from her post.

Eddie Kemsley, who joined the project in November 2013, is stepping down after a turbulent year since the park re-opened last summer, during which time its operator has fallen into financial difficulties and, ultimately, administration.

A crunch meeting was called earlier this month after Sands Heritage Ltd entered into a voluntary arrangement last December to pay back its creditors, many of whom are owed thousands of pounds.

However, administrators Duff & Phelps confirmed Dreamland would continue to trade and said they were "certain there is still a bright future".

The park has suffered another blow in recent weeks week as the iconic Scenic Railway was forced to close, during peak visitor season, for repairs and is still yet to re-open.

Sands Heritage's financial woes last year were attributed to the delayed opening of the railway at Dreamland.

Ms Kemsley will leave at the end of the season, to become CEO of a London children's visitor attraction.

PRESSURE: Dreamland is suffering financial woes

Dreamland will continue to operate as usual under Benjamin Wiles and Paul Williams of Duff & Phelps.

Ms Kemsley said: "Opening a re-imagined Dreamland has been an honour.

"Building a team of predominately local people to make the dream a reality has been the highlight of my career.

"At times, it's been a hard, emotional journey with many bumps in the road but every challenge we have faced has been worth it to see the ever increasing number of visitors to the amusement park and to Margate."

Mr Wiles, managing director of Duff & Phelps, added: "We wish Eddie the greatest of success in taking on her new role and would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication in helping create and deliver the vision of a re-imagined Dreamland.

"Having worked alongside Eddie for the last few months I can tell why during her tenure as CEO, Dreamland has significantly contributed to the regeneration of Margate."

Pilot unharmed after plane plunges in sea

A PILOT walked away unharmed after crashing his plane into the sea at the Herne Bay Air Show on Sunday.

Emergency services were called to the scene, as crowds watched the light air craft land in the water just off the coast.

The UK coastguard launched a search and rescue helicopter based at Lydd, as well rescue teams from Margate & Herne Bay.

Anglers steal £8,000 fish from private lake

A WARNING has been issued to anglers after fish believed in total to be worth £8,000 were stolen from privately-owned lakes in Chartham.

The theft reportedly took place between 7pm and 8.30pm on August 8 and police are reminding people not to fish on private grounds unless they have permission.

Tory councillor dies

A FORMER Conservative member of Kent County Council has died at the age of 72.

Robert Brookbank was first elected as a Sevenoaks District Councillor for Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village in 2007.

He was elected again in 2011 and 2015, as well as serving on KCC for Swanley in 2009 and 2013.

The funeral takes place on Thursday.

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Tragic stabbing in Ayia Napa leaves family feeling 'numb'

THE mother of a 22-year-old Dartford man who was fatally stabbed in the resort of Ayia Napa has told how his death has left the family "numb".

Estate agent George Low, 22, was attacked while walking down a busy street with his friend, according to local police in the party town.

Mr Low's mother, Helen, 47, said the pair were due to fly back home yesterday.

He had spent two previous seasons in the resort as a club rep and manager, and was last there in June celebrating his birthday.

Mrs Low said her son's death had devastated her, her husband, postman Martyn, 55, and their children Wesley, Laura, Oliver and Millie.

Mrs Low, a community carer, said: "We're just heartbroken. We cannot believe something like this could happen to our son. We're just struggling.

"He loved it over there and everybody loved him. There was something special about George. He would speak to people and they would instantly love him.

"Nobody could say anything bad about George."

Race for £8m contract to construct new fire station

FIRE chiefs in Kent are inviting tenders for the construction of a new fire station in Ramsgate, believed to be worth up to £8 million.

Building of the station, earmarked for a derelict swimming pool site on Newington Road, is set to begin in the new year after demolition of the existing infrastructure began earlier this month.

The site covers an area of approximately 0.57ha and will be used as both a fire station and training facility.

The main building will be located in the south-central part of the site and will feature a two-storey fire station block.

This will comprise offices and welfare facilities, and a two-storey block comprising training rooms and associated facilities.

Potential contractors have until September 5 to declare interest in the project, which will be worth between £5m and £8m, and has a target completion date of March 2018.

A Kent Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson said: "We need a site that is near to the highest risk areas of Ramsgate and Newington.

"We also need a site that is close enough to the current station so we do not lose our experienced on-call firefighters who must be able to get to the station from home within five minutes to respond to fires and other emergencies.

"Finally we need a site that has enough width and depth so that fire engines do not have to reverse in or out of the station."

180 calls for helicopter

A HELICOPTER operator stationed at Kent's Lydd Airport responded to some 180 search and rescue (SAR) calls in its first year at the base.

Chief pilot, Neil Robertson, said: ''It has been an enormous privilege to deliver such an important service over the past year.''

Fresh batch of bakers

A FRESH batch of faces are ready to be brought to our screens as the new season of The Great British Bake Off starts next week.

Among the contestants for this year's crown are 28-year-old Rav from Erith and Jane, 61, from Beckenham.

It kicks off on Wednesday on BBC One.

Cliffs on silver £5 coins

ENGRAVERS have teamed up to capture portraits of the White Cliffs of Dover on a commemorative collection of silver £5 coins.

Glyn Davies and Laura Clancy painted the scene in watercolour before engraving every last detail onto the tools needed to strike these collectable coins.

Last BHS store shuts

THE last BHS store in the county closes this weekend.

The Tunbridge Wells branch shuts its doors for the final time following closures in Maidstone, Ashford, Gillingham and Gravesend in recent weeks after administrators failed to find a buyer for the retailer.

4-day Coach Trip to Ilfracombe £159

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DAY 4: We leave for home after a last, hearty breakfast to see us on our way

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Top Three Stories

1. Labour loses yet again

Tories on top in by-election

2. Teens make amends

A Sikh temple was destroyed back in June

3. Dole queue down 3%

More people in work post-Brexit

The Essential Guide:

...to the Dartford Crossing

Everything you need to know about the Dart charge?

FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: A unique collection of artefacts and photographs of the legendary doomed 'unsinkable' liner Titanic went on show at Tunbridge Wells' Roya Victoria Place..

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Top Three Blogs

1. Time to save Twitter

Cyber bullying fears continue to grow

2. Lorry lane required

Why HGVs drive us round the bend

3. Straight outta uni

A young man's first step in the adult world

Results of the *KoS* Online Poll

Can Ukip succeed in a post-Brexit world?

1. It will cease to exist soon - 34%
2. It will exist but with little interest - 33%
3. It will grow as a force - 33%
4. Don't know - 0%

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WINNERS: Among the county's Olympic stars were rugby sevens player Ruaridh McConnochie, our women hockey players and track athletes Dina Asher-Smith and Adam Gemili

They are all Olympic stars

From medals to personal bests, the county can take immense pride in all the efforts of our hugely talented sportsmen and women in Rio this summer...

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

ELITE sportsmen and women from across the county have been battling international foes over the last fortnight in a bid to etch their name in Olympic folklore.

The 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro have to go down as a hugely successful one for Kent's athletes, with medals and personal bests achieved across the board.

For many of them, most notably perhaps 22-year-old Team GB captain Adam Gemili, the future is bright too, as these young men and women will look to learn from their experiences in Brazil and go on to even greater things in the coming years.

With the athletics events – for many the highlight of the competition – on the backburner until this week, some of Kent's finest sportspeople came to the fore in other disciplines.

Tunbridge Wells' Bryony Shaw performed admirably but failed to match her previous success of a bronze in Beijing in 2008, but impressed in her discipline, ultimately finishing ninth in the RS:X windsurfing event.

The county's first medal went to Cranbrook's Ruaridh McConnochie after being part of the silver-winning Great Britain rugby sevens team.

The former Cranbrook School student was part of the team which made the final match and faced hot favourites Fiji in a battle for the gold medal.

But after beating one of the favourites, South Africa, to reach the last two, they were outclassed by Fiji who coasted to a comfortable 43-7 victory.

Yet the result will have been cheered throughout the county courtesy of McConnochie's role.

He had initially only been selected as a reserve for the squad, but was drafted into the full team after other players pulled out.

Kent then struck gold when Ashford's Tom Ransley helped Team GB's all-conquering rowing team to victory in the men's coxed eight.

The former King's School pupil improved on his 2012 performance, which saw him take bronze in the coxed eights, and the win follows two World Championship titles in 2013 and 2014, and European gold in 2015.

Chatham's Kat Driscoll, who learnt her trade at Lordswood Leisure centre and Jumpers Trampoline Club in Gillingham, was delighted with a sixth-placed finish in her trampolining event but one of the big success stories was the women's hockey team.

While their male counterparts bowed out before the quarter-finals, the girls roared their way to the final, thus guaranteeing a medal.

Kent's Susannah Townsend, Sam Quek, Nicola White, Shona McCallin and Maddie Hinch were all part of the squad going into the match with Holland, having seen off the likes of New Zealand and Spain in the knockout stages and Australia, Argentina, Japan, India and the US in the earlier rounds.

On the track, before proposing to his boyfriend on Copacabana beach, Sevenoaks' Tom Bosworth achieved a personal best in the race walking, finishing sixth with a time of 1:20:13.

Maidstone's Jack Green, meanwhile, matched his performance in London in 2012 by reaching the semi-finals of the 400m hurdles.

Dina Asher-Smith, from Orpington, was one of the county's medal hopes going into the Games, having become Britain's fastest teenager at the World Championships in Beijing last year.

After qualifying for the 200m final, the sprinter fell short of a place on the podium, but was happy after recording a season's best, finishing fifth in a time of 22.31 seconds.

"I was quite happy with that, considering my rounds didn't go exactly as my coach and I had planned," she said.

"Obviously I want to run a personal best every time and get faster and faster, but I don't think anyone out there ran one, it wasn't one of those races.

"This year I've learned not to freak out when I see other people go like that because it's what they're going to do.

"This year I've believed a bit more. Although I got exactly the same place [as last year] I'll go again next year and the year after that.

"Next year I'm going to remember to relax for the last bit. As soon as you start thinking about catching the others you start thinking about having the wrong mentality."

There was heartbreak for Dartford sprinter Gemili on Friday morning as he came agonisingly close to a medal, but was pipped to bronze by a staggering three thousandths of a second in the men's 200m.

After the shock exits of Yohan Blake and Justin Gatlin in the semis, many fancied the former Dartford Grammar School pupil to come good on his pre-tournament vow to "go out there to medal" but was visibly distraught when the results were revealed.

"I am really gutted, it is probably the worst way to go out when you finish in fourth," he said.

"I wanted to get that medal not just for myself but for my whole team so I gave it my all and it is going to take me a little while to get over this.

"Christophe Lemaitre [who finished third] was on the other side of the track so I couldn't tell what happened. I knew it was me and a couple of other people who could get it but I saw his name come up and I just fell to the floor.

"I went out there and I was fearless. I wasn't just there to make up the numbers and be a spectator.

"I was there to show that Team GB can challenge the best in the world, especially at the Olympics.

Both Gemili and Asher-Smith are still to compete in the 4x100m relay, while Cobham pentathlete Kate French was positive going into her final events this weekend.

Fears for patient safety as work on route to major hospital starts

This week Highways England announced the beginning of the next phase of the A21 dualling but what sort of impact could the work have on those travelling to Tunbridge Wells Hospital in Pembury?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PATIENT SAFETY: Fears have been voice about the effects of major road works on the A21 between Tonbridge and Pembury

CONCERN for patient safety is growing as road works on a major route to one of Kent's biggest hospitals begins this weekend.

Councillors in the west of the county have voiced their uncertainty over what the works, which are set to last for some six months, could mean for patients travelling to and from Tunbridge Wells Hospital in Pembury.

Highways England announced during the week that the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury dualling route moves into its next major phase as of this weekend.

But as Highways England promised the finished scheme will benefit all drivers on the A21, some are worried about how effective diversions will be, with congestion proving an issue time and again across Kent.

Tunbridge Wells Borough councillor Paul Barrington-King lives in Pembury.

He told KoS: "Highways are not my immediate responsibility, much as I care and worry about Pembury.

"I am worried about any inconvenience that is caused. Any adverse impact regarding the hospital and these roadworks will be of great concern to me.

"The long-term goal is that when we get this road network sorted then it will be of benefit to everybody.

"I would hope the contingency measure put in place to ensure that patients actually get to the hospital with the least possible inconvenience will work well. That would be a great comfort to me."

"I would hope the county council will also be fighting Pembury Hospital's corner ensuring that no actual major problems surface during these road works."

Fellow councillor Sue Nuttall also lives in Pembury, and she said: "I am not an expert, but I like to think everything that can be done has been done to ensure patient safety. I just hope I am not proved wrong.

"I know some local residents are also worried about noise, but once more all that should be catered for."

The hospital is managed by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

A spokesperson said: "We are working closely with partners to ensure patients continue to access Tunbridge Wells Hospital with the minimum of disruption throughout the A21 roadworks."

There are particular concerns for ambulances, but the South East Coast Ambulance Service (Secamb), which transports patients in Kent, says talks have been ongoing for a while, to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

"We are working closely with the hospital trust and other partner organisations to plan ahead of the period where the roadworks will be in place," a Secamb spokesperson said.

"We have communicated the diversions to staff and there are plans in place to facilitate an alternative route to the hospital for emergencies vehicles in the unlikely event of the Pembury crossroads being closed due to unforeseen circumstances.

"We will continue to work closely with all our partners to minimise the impact this work will have on the service we provide and remind the all road users to be aware of emergency vehicles negotiating any traffic in the area."

Highways England said the A21 is being upgraded to a dual carriageway between Tonbridge and Pembury which it is hope will make journeys more reliable and also improve safety on the route between London and Hastings.

Work originally started in April last year and has already involved constructing new slip roads, moving an ancient woodland, removing a Grade II listed building which will be rebuilt in a museum, and a variety of measures for protected species.

The agency said the next phase will see traffic moved on to those new slip roads so a new flyover can be constructed at the Longfield Road junction and a new junction constructed at Fairthorne.

That, of course, will also involve the temporary closure of Tonbridge Road which is one of two roads leading to the Pembury Hospital.

Highways promised contingency plans have already been agreed to allow emergency access to Pembury Hospital in the event that the other road is closed.

It said: "We have also worked closely with the hospital to minimise the impact of the road closure."

Highways England project manager Anne-Marie Palmer added: "This scheme will deliver huge benefits to people travelling on this part of the A21 in Kent, and further afield, between Hastings and London.

"We have achieved a lot so far and now we are ready for the next phase of the work, which will see the construction of a new flyover at the Longfield Road junction and a new junction at Fairthorne.

"Once complete this scheme will increase traffic capacity, and the junction upgrades and improvements to the road layout will improve safety."

Saturday saw traffic onto the temporary layout when the A21 was closed in both directions overnight, between 8pm and 6am.

From Sunday 21, the A21 will be moved onto the newly constructed slip roads at the Longfield Road junction.

Access to and from Tonbridge Road from the Longfield Road junction will be closed throughout construction.

Bosses at Highways England say a clearly signed diversion will be in place via the A228.

MORE PATIENTS SURVIVING EMERGENCY BOWEL SURGERY

MAIDSTONE and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust also announced this week that more patients with life-threatening conditions are surviving emergency bowel surgery at the Pembury hospital.

It now has the ninth lowest emergency bowel surgery death rate in England and Wales, with no other hospital in the south east, outside of London, providing better outcomes for patients with life-threatening conditions such as bowel obstruction, perforation or a bleed.

Bristol is the only hospital in the whole of the south of England achieving better results.

More than 30,000 patients have this emergency surgery each year in NHS hospitals, with the Royal College of Anaesthetists recently reporting that mortality rates can be as high as 20 per cent, with the national average sitting at 11.1 per cent.

Clinicians at Tunbridge Wells Hospital have reduced mortality rates to 7.2 per cent as part of a quality improvement project to save 1,000 more lives over two years across the south of England.

Dr Daniel Moult, consultant in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care at the trust said: ''The improvements we have seen, and continue to make, would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of staff throughout our trust.

''Our aims now are to build further on our progress to further enhance the care and outcomes for patients undergoing emergency laparotomy surgery in the trust.''

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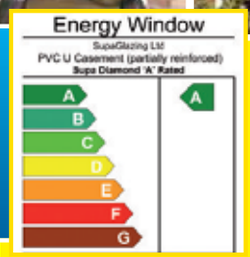

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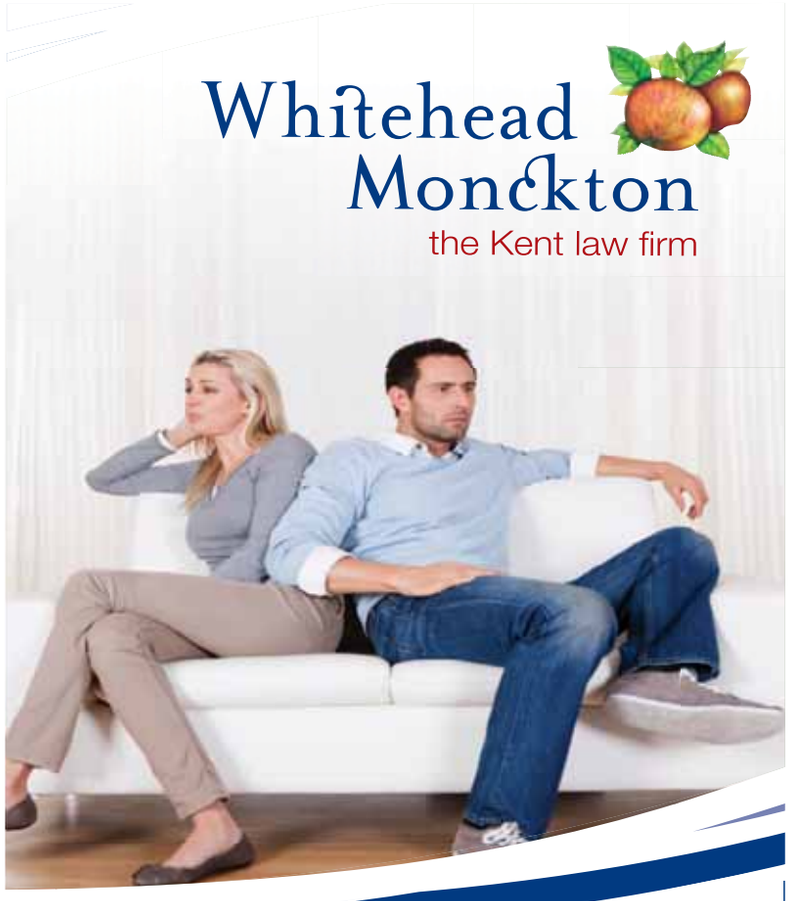

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KL 1/16

More students than ever are making grade for university

Despite a slight fall in the number of A-levels being taken because of a move to vocational qualifications, a record number of teenagers will be heading to higher education...

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MORE students will be starting university next month than ever before after teenagers across the county endured another dramatic morning this week as they collected their A-level results on Thursday.

Some 424,000 students have been accepted to higher education so far this year – up three per cent on last year, UCAS, which processes applications for higher education, says many more are likely to make their way through the Clearing process.

Schools the length and breadth of the country were proud to share their students' successes, with many registering record-breaking results.

Dover College announced some of the best results on the Kent coast with 44 per cent of all A-level and Btec results at a four year high of an A* or A grade.

Headmaster Gareth Doodes said: "Our leaving pupils can now proceed with confidence to university. They leave the college having had the benefit of small class sizes, creative teaching and high academic standards within a caring, family community."

Elaine Wilson, headteacher at Mayfield Grammar in Gravesend, said: "Just under half of the exams our students sat at A-level achieved a grade of A*, A or B.

"We are understandably proud of our students and their results are testament to their hard work and commitment together with the excellent teaching they receive at school."

Samantha Price, head of Benenden School in Cranbrook, where 31 per cent of grades were A*, said: "We place a strong emphasis on helping our girls develop as individuals both inside and outside the classroom.

"So what makes me equally proud is that I know these girls will leave Benenden not only with these excellent academic qualifications, but also with life skills that will enable them to thrive in the future."

Meanwhile, the gap between the very top-performing girls and boys at A-level has narrowed for the first time in five years, as the proportion of A* being awarded to students in 2016 also dropped.

WHAT IS 'CLEARING'?

THIS is the process by which students seeking a place following A-level results search for suitable degree course places.

While many will attempt to thrash out an arrangement in the immediate hours after picking up their results, the Clearing process can last for days or even weeks in some cases.

The University of Kent will be welcoming plenty of young people from schools and colleges next month, and Steve Holdcroft, head of Recruitment and Admissions at the university, is urging those in the Clearing boat to stay calm amongst the stress.

He said: "Make your shortlist of universities and courses and call the Clearing team as soon as possible.

"You can check the full list of university vacancies published in the national newspapers or use the web.

"The UCAS website is a great place to start your search – it carries up-to-date vacancies as well as links to university sites.

"The more flexible you are in your choice of course, the greater your chances of success in securing an offer.

"However, don't pick a subject just because you've got the required grades – think about your wider academic interests and the subjects you have studied at school.

"Choose a course you think you'll enjoy and do well in.

"Keep trying if you don't get through first time. Many universities, like Kent, also have an online application process so if phone lines are busy why not get ahead of the queue by applying online."

Meanwhile, more than 1,300 calls were received by the University of Greenwich's Medway campus in the first four hours on Thursday, with demand expected to continue across the weekend.

Sophi Marten, recruitment co-ordinator, said: "It has been a great start to Clearing. I am delighted that we have been able to offer places to many of our early callers.

"We are looking forward to helping more higher education hopefuls find the best degree courses to match their career ambitions as Clearing continues."

CELEBRATING: A-level students at Mayfield Grammar in Gravesend with their results and (right) pupils at Dover College jump for joy as they too celebrate exam success

The proportion of students offered the coveted A* and A grades in the UK dropped slightly, from 25.9 per cent in 2015 to 25.8 per cent this year.

Boys continued to earn more A*, with 8.5 per cent achieving the very top grade - although this is down from 8.7 per cent last year, contrary to some predictions.

Girls also dropped, from 7.8 per cent at A* to 7.7 per cent, meaning the gap between the two sexes has narrowed to 0.8 per cent from 0.9 per cent.

Including A grades, girls continue to slightly out-perform their male counterparts - with 25.9 per cent for girls compared with 25.8 per cent for boys.

However, the number of exams taken has declined by 1.7 per cent, from 850,749 last year to 836,705. The results follow changes in a decoupling of AS-levels and A-levels, as many colleges have begun to knock A-levels on the head in favour of vocational courses.

Indeed, Canterbury College is no longer offering A-level courses, only allowing another year for its existing students to complete their studies – putting 16 jobs at risk in the process.

Michael Turner, director general of the Joint Council for Qualifications, said: "Overall, outcomes are relatively unchanged.

"However, the shift in entry patterns and the introduction of new specifications in reformed subjects could lead to a greater volatility in year-on-year results in some schools and col-

Continued on page 16

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Continued from page 15

leges than is experienced in a typical year."

Roger Gough, cabinet member for education at Kent County Council, said he was pleased with what he had seen across the county.

"We know nationally that there is a reduction in overall young people taking these qualifications and that has been matched in Kent," he told KoS.

"Performances in terms of overall attainment is fairly stable with a very small decline in those very top grades – but that's an extremely small decline.

"The indication we have got from about three-quarters of secondary schools is we have at least matched the overall trend and maybe even done a little bit better.

"There are more example of schools where highest grades have improved and schools have delivered spectacular improvements for overall attainment.

"I was at Dover Grammar School for Boys in the morning and they have enjoyed significant improvements, but it's not just the grammars.

"Skinners Kent Academy for example – the percentage of students achieving two or more A* to E grades jumped from 14 to 73 per cent. So we've had good strong performances from both.

"It's also worth remembering that it's not just A-level results that are released, it's vocational qualifications, international baccalaureate and many more.

"The question is 'are there a good range of options for students?' and I think, yes, there are.

"The evidence does support the idea that university provides higher earnings and other clear benefits that are non-monetary.

"University is important and an attractive proposition but it's clearly not the only option, and people will be considering a whole range of apprenticeships, for example.

"The important thing is to take a measured and sensible approach to looking at your options."

Medway Council now only runs one secondary school in the area, the rest are run by academies, but the authority's portfolio holder for children's services, Mike O'Brien, was pleased with the results.

"As hundreds of students across Medway collect their A-level results, I'd like to congratulate each and every one of them on their achievements and wish them well for the exciting times that lie ahead," he said.

"I would also like to thank the teachers and the school governors for their hard work to help our young people reach their personal goals."

THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS TO UNIVERSITY...

WHILE there is a lot of pressure on young people to go into higher education or employment immediately after receiving their results, but in fact there are a wealth of opportunities available.

International Citizen Service (ICS) is a government-funded programme, that lets 18-25 year olds work in some of the poorest countries in the world, on sustainable development projects.

Jason Wharfe, 18, from Canterbury, who picked up his results on Thursday, already has a place on ICS for next month, when he will be travelling to Kenya with VSO.

He'll spend 12 weeks working on a project to help young local people access sustainable sources of income, and encourage more inclusive education for girls and people with disabilities.

The former Simon Langton Grammar School pupil said: "I applied for ICS because it is an exciting opportunity make a difference to those less fortunate than me and to understand a different culture, and to travel abroad.

"I'm hoping to develop skills such as communications, teamwork and building relationships with people from a different way of life.

"I'm most looking forward to working together with a group of people in a different environment to understand others ways of life.

"I'm hoping ICS will help me evaluate what direction my future holds whilst also helping develop my soft skills."

Felicity Kendall, director of ICS, said: "Young people leaving school or college can find themselves under a lot of pressure to figure out what's next.

"Volunteering abroad can be a great opportunity to experience another culture and gain skills that will set you up for future challenges.

"The crucial question to ask yourself before signing up is, are the placements well planned and managed, and do they actually benefit the community you're working in?"

Jonathan Whalley, regional director for the south east at children's charity, Barnardo's added: "A-Level results day can be a very stressful time, especially for students who don't get the results they hoped for.

"Barnardo's has lots of opportunities to help young people get on the career ladder. We run training programmes in different areas across England to help young people build exciting futures in everything from beauty therapy and retail, to engineering and renewable energies, so there should be something to suit everyone.

RESULTS: Sixth Form students at Benenden School celebrate their A-level results and (inset) KCC cabinet member for education Roger Gough

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MODERN: West Ham's first official game at the former Olympic Stadium saw Ashford International station packed with supporters making the short trip into the capital

Premier League closer than ever with Hammers just 30 mins away

Ashford placed to benefit as hundreds of West Ham fans set to make short, half-an-hour journey into Stratford on our highspeed trains to watch their team kick off life at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park...

PREMIER League football is closer to Kent than ever before as West Ham United make their first domestic appearance in their new home this weekend.

Kicking off their league campaign at the London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford today (Sunday) against Bournemouth, West Ham are expected to welcome thousands of supporters from across the county.

When Slaven Bilic's side celebrated their first competitive match at the stadium – three months after leaving their old home at the Boleyn Ground – with a 3-0 win over NK Domzale in the Europa League, hundreds of Hammers lined the platforms at Ashford International to make the short trip into the capital and offer their support.

On Southeastern's high speed trains, a trip from the centre of the county to Stratford International, barely a five minute walk from the stadium, takes just 31 minutes.

For those boarding at Ebbsfleet International, the train journey is even quicker at just over 10 minutes.

It means in a county starved of top flight football, it is now closer than ever before, with West Ham's league fixtures throughout the season expected to attract thousands from Ashford, Ebbsfleet and beyond.

Located at the heart of the county, Ashford is rapidly becoming one of Kent's most important and well-developed towns.

The Planning Inspectorate this month accepted proposals for a new junction south of the town for examination, which is expected to ease congestion and improve links to and from the centre.

Meanwhile, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), which drives economic growth in Kent and surrounding areas, is making a bid to government to pump further millions to improve the town centre and signalling on the railway.

Not to mention the continued development of Ashford College, the Commercial Quarter and the Chilmington Green estate.

Ashford is clearly an area on the up, and with Premier League football now so accessible, fans from all areas of the county and beyond may see it as something of a hub for their travels.

Those coming a long distance may want to stay in a hotel, but with prices in London off the scale, an overnight stop in the heart of the county is likely to be a far cheaper alternative.

Not that such a phenomenon is unknown to Ashford, which of course is also a regular stop for Eurostar trains on their way across the channel to France and other areas of the continent.

The economic benefits to the town could be monumental, as council leader Gerry Clarkson explains.

"We are delighted to have a Premier League football team only 30 minutes away from the town, and hope that the additional number of supporters visiting the station will have a positive impact of the local economy," he told KoS.

"Ashford is one of the most connected places in the UK.

"Not only are we merely 30 minutes away from the Olympic Stadium at Stratford, we are just 38 minutes by HS1 trains from central London, and we also have direct international connections to Paris, Brussels, Lille, Marseille, Lyon and Avignon via Eurostar.

"We are at the heart of the south east's transport network, boasting unrivalled rail, road, air and sea links with Ashford International Station seeing 3.63 million passengers a year pass through the station, which has a positive knock-on effect to the town by bringing business and pleasure travellers to Ashford."

A Southeastern spokesperson added: "Stratford has become a really important destination on our network with the Westfield shopping centre, the leisure activities at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and now West Ham moving into the former Olympic stadium.

"We are pleased to be able to provide regular high speed services to Stratford for all these activities and more."

Visit Kent were also approached for comment but they declined at this stage.

Prior to this year, Arsenal were arguably the most accessible Premier League side, with Gunners fans travelling just over half an hour from Ashford to St Pancras International, before jumping on the Piccadilly line for three stops and arriving at the Emirates Stadium in a door-to-door journey that takes under 60 minutes.

Geographically, sitting south of the River Thames, Crystal Palace may appear the closest venue for top level sport, but with limited trains between Kent and Croydon, a 40-minute drive from Swanley to Selhurst Park is probably the quickest route county-based fans can hope for.

HOME: West Ham's new London stadium is little over half-an-hour away from the heart of the county courtesy of Southeastern's high speed trains

Outside the top flight, a trip to Charlton Athletic in Greenwich can take as little as 18 minutes from Dartford but travelling from other areas of the county can be a little more difficult.

Kent's only Football League representative, Gillingham, is also some 40 minutes in the car from Ashford, meaning for fans based in the centre, a trip to watch West Ham is in fact quicker and easier than a voyage to Priestfield.

Anger as rail fares rise by 2 per cent

Campaigners say suffering Southern passengers should get cheaper tickets

SOUTHERN: Calls for a reduction in price for passengers on troubled franchise

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

CHIEFS at the troubled Southern rail franchise admit their hands are tied amid calls to reduce fares for passengers.

The Office for National Statistics released July's Retail Price Index (RPI) measure of inflation on Tuesday, confirming a rise in Britain's regulated train fares next year of 1.9 per cent.

Rail minister Paul Maynard said passengers "want more reliable journeys in comfort and with better facilities".

But a number of politicians and campaigners believe it would be unfair for commuters using embattled operator Southern, which runs trains from Ashford and Tonbridge, to pay more for their tickets.

Many of the firm's services have been delayed or cancelled for months because of a dispute over changes to the role of conductors and staff shortages – blamed by the company on high levels of employee sickness.

Tory MP Crispin Blunt, whose Reigate constituency is on the Southern network, said: "The government has got to treat people fairly.

"An across the board regulated rise with no exceptions to Southern is unconscionable."

He said that ministers should reduce fares for Southern passengers until rebuilding work at London Bridge is completed in January 2018, as the project has contributed to delays across the network.

"There should be a cut for Southern passengers until the service returns to normal," he added.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who has frozen Transport for London (TfL) fares for single journeys, called on the government to halt any increase in ticket prices on suburban rail routes and speed up the transfer of the services to TfL.

He said: "This further hike in fares at a time when many commuters are facing a disgraceful service is yet another kick in the teeth."

Green Party MP Caroline Lucas said the increase in ticket prices would be "particularly galling" for commuters using Southern Railway, who are "paying growing amounts for a deteriorating service".

A spokesman for Govia Thameslink Railway, which operates the Southern franchise, was apologetic but admitted any potential reduction was out of its hands.

He said: "We know we have not delivered the service our passengers expect or deserve in recent months and for that we apologise unreservedly.

"However, the GTR franchise operates as a management contract with all ticket revenue passing directly to the government.

"Decisions regarding pricing therefore rest with them."

Around half of rail fares are regulated, including season tickets on most commuter journeys, some off-peak return tickets on long distance trips and Anytime tickets around major cities.

Transport Focus, Railfuture and the Campaign for Better Transport all called on ministers to use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation for setting fares, rather than RPI.

CPI, which was 0.6 per cent in July, is used for calculating pensions and most benefits.

Alex Neill, director of policy and campaigns at consumer group Which?, said: "It's little wonder that trust in train companies is falling when passengers face cancellations, delays and disruption yet see fares continue to rise."

Research by the TUC and the Action For Rail union campaign showed that fares have risen by double the speed of wages since 2010.

The analysis revealed that fares have increased by 25 per cent in the last six years, while average weekly earnings have grown by 12 per cent.

A series of protests were held at railway stations across the country by trade unions on Tuesday morning, with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn holding a placard which read "2017 rip off central" at London Bridge.

Farmers need Brexit assurance

Writing exclusively for Kent on Sunday, **Tim Farron**, leader of the Liberal Democrats casts a light on the impact of leaving the European Union on the county's farmers and what we need to do next...

WHATEVER side of the argument you were on over Brexit, one thing is now beyond argument: the government had no Brexit plan.

And in few areas is this more apparent than agriculture, an industry which still makes Kent the garden of England. For decades Britain has let the EU run farming, and now will presumably create a new system – with no expertise.

The chancellor's promise to protect subsidies until 2020 seems on the surface reassuring. But the guarantee is for just four years. This is simply a holding message while ministers work out what on earth to do next.

Life after Brexit is still chaotic, yet farmers need to plan. With Brexit predicted to increase government borrowing costs by an extra £60bn, ministers will need to make savings. By 2020, both government and people might be less sympathetic about agricultural subsidies – especially when the promised £350 billion for the NHS doesn't materialise.

The National Farmers' Union is consulting members on life post-Brexit, and farmers are increasingly aware the government is unlikely to cover, long term the £2.1bn in EU subsidies – which made up more than half of farmers' income last year - or the £600m in rural development payments. Money family farms can't afford to lose.

So many questions remain. If we leave Europe, and the government keeps some subsidy, will it be for food production, or for land husbandry? What conditions would be attached? Would direct subsidy be moved from landowners to tenant farmers, who sometimes miss out under the current system? Will immigration be reduced, and if so how will this impact on farms reliant on seasonal labour? Will there be training in agriculture for young British workers to take up the slack? And will great local products such as Kentish ale, Whitstable oysters and East Kent goldings continue to receive EU protection from cheap foreign imitators?

Above all, farmers need to know if we will remain part of the Single Market. They want assurance that they will retain the freedom to sell brilliant produce without tariffs or, just as harmful, restrictions. So far Conservative ministers do not seem to agree even on this fundamental question, with Theresa May sounding more positive about the Single Market while Brexiteers Liam Fox and David Davis trying their hardest to yank us out of the world's most lucrative market.

CHANGES: Brexit will have a huge impact on the county's farmers

While Conservative ministers squabble, Liberal Democrats have been addressing the mess. I am delighted that Nick Clegg, our former leader, has accepted my offer to return to frontline politics as our Brexit spokesperson.

We have a simple aim: To make sure that we are fully aware of what impact the decisions relating to Brexit will have before they are made. Britain should not miss out any more than it has already from the reckless Conservative gamble to call a referendum without a clear strategy either how to win it or what to do if they lost.

We respect the result of the referendum, but equally the government must make clear urgently what Brexit means. The uncertainty is killing confidence, with the pound plummeting, and the possibility of zero interest rates to kick-start flagging growth.

Farmers here receive £29m in financial support from the EU – money the family farm needs. It would be a travesty if the Conservatives were allowed to cause further hardship by taking away this vital help.

There is also broader concern for anyone who, like me, loves the rural British landscape. If EU subsidy is removed, and British farmers are denied access to the Single Market for their produce, the landscape could change beyond recognition in a decade.

As a frequent visitor, I think that would be a tragedy. Kentish farms, with their patchwork of former hop gardens, all produce something different, now even sparkling wine. If we are not careful they soon won't be producing very much at all, wrecking rural communities and making us dependent on foreign imports with all the consequences for our balance of payments and environment.

I am not prepared to let the government sell-out on farmers in this way. Please join my fight to save British agriculture for the long term.

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THAMESLINK PROGRAMME

Planned engineering work for the Thameslink Programme means there will be no Southeastern services at Cannon Street and fewer Southeastern services on other routes, as work continues to rebuild London Bridge station.

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For more information, visit
southeasternrailway.co.uk/august

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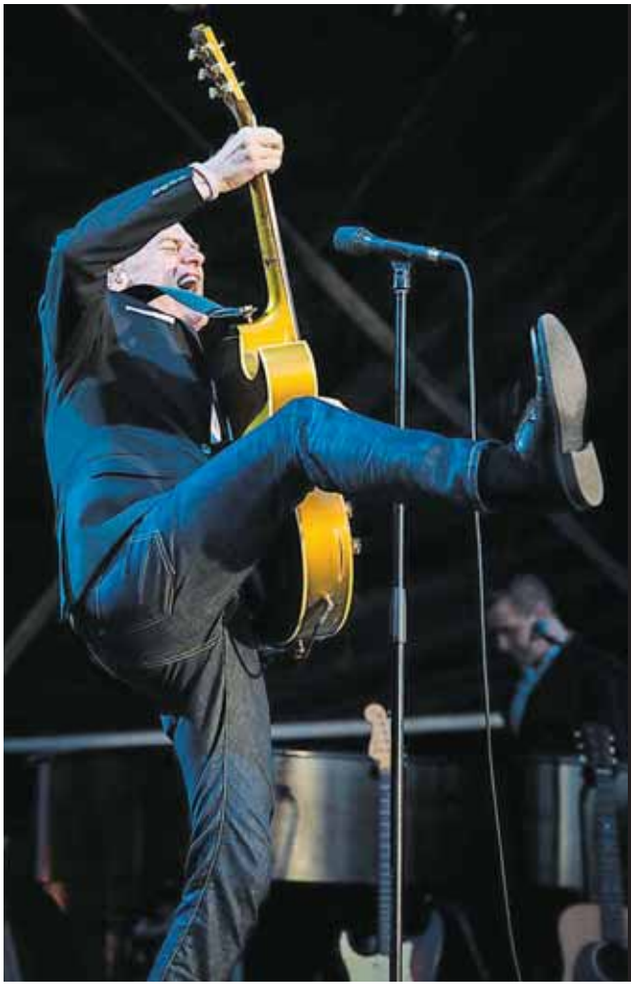

Superstar shines at major outdoor show

Canadian singer-songwriter Bryan Adams played the hits in Canterbury last weekend. But did he hit the right note?

REVIEW by Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

Halfway through Bryan Adams' triumphant show in Canterbury on Saturday night, and just before launching into arguably the biggest song of his career, he announces the next tune is dedicated to a young cancer sufferer who is in the audience.

They are raising money for life-saving treatment, he explains. And as he does so he slips off stage to return with a large dustbin. He then drops in some folding money - as do all his band - and he passes it out into the crowd.

By the time the closing notes of (Everything I Do) I Do It For You ring out, the bin is stuffed full of cash having practically surged its way through the front of a rather generous crowd.

It's a nice gesture from a performer known for his philantrophic nature and gives a song which must, to an extent, hang somewhat millstone-like around his neck, added emotional clout.

It is, therefore, hard to dislike Bryan Adams. After all, this is a man who has dipped in and out of the UK charts for more than 30 years and, for that, there is clearly some serious talent underpinning his success.

His modus operandi hasn't really changed over the years – his music is traditonal rock n roll with that instantly recognisable gravelly voice – and he's a man who has impressed different audiences over the generations to ensure his audience is diverse.

From those who fell under the spell of 1984's legendary Reckless, to that long summer of 1991 when his monster hit (Everything I Do) I Do It For You, set up camp at number one for a solid four months. Then there was the duet with Mel C of the Spice Girls, When You're Gone, in 1998.

Today he is still churning out the albums - the latest is Get Up – and relentlessly touring with sets which are predominantly crowd-pleasing greatest hit collections. The money, after all, in this day and age, is to be found strutting your stuff on the live circuit.

All of which brought him to the Spitfire Ground last weekend, home of Kent County Cricket Club which is fast becoming a valuable addition to the county's outdoor music venue portfolio.

It's big enough to make shows there an event, and pull in the calibre of acts such as Adams, Madness, Simply Red and Elton John, while not requiring 30,000 tickets to be sold to make the venue look busy.

Blessed by a fabulous warm day, the evening was warm and clear and as the Canadian songsmith appeared in black jacket and blue jeans (the ageing rocker's fash-

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STAR: It wasn't perfect, but it was a strong show from the performer

CROWDS: Glorious sunshine and big crowds welcomed Bryan Adams on stage. All pictures: ANDY ARCHER

ionwear of choice) and proceeded to deliver a two-hour set containing a romp through his career and a sprinkling of tracks from his latest album.

However, and I appreciate there is no easy answer to how to solve this, like so many acts some of those biggest hits he must have played more times than he cares to remember.

So, for example, the classic Run To You, is fine, but only fine. There's a distinct lack of oomph to it. It should be the sort of song that even now, 30-odd years later, makes you stop in your tracks. But he delivers it a little bit like a man who has long since lost any great enthusiasm for it. Which is a bit of a shame.

Summer of 69, on the other hand, is elevated courtesy of a crowd that, perhaps for the first time, really gets into it.

Certainly those of us of a certain age appreciate the set-list he delivers – Can't Stop This Thing We Started, It's Only Love, Kids Wanna Rock (which given he's now 56 does sound vaguely ridiculous) and the sublime Heaven.

It's tough for an audience predominantly of 40 and 50-somethings in an arena where the sound can drift on the breeze or rebound off a grandstand, and, to be honest, simply isn't all that loud, to generate the sort of atmosphere which outdoor shows need to really carry them off, and the jury may well be out on whether this was achieved. It was however, a hard evening not to enjoy, if perhaps not rave about.

However, the Spitfire Ground is a fine location and to get acts like Bryan Adams is a credit to all involved. Especially in a county where all the major outdoor music festivals have fizzled out in recent years, thus leaving a gap for the big summer shows which are so appealing.

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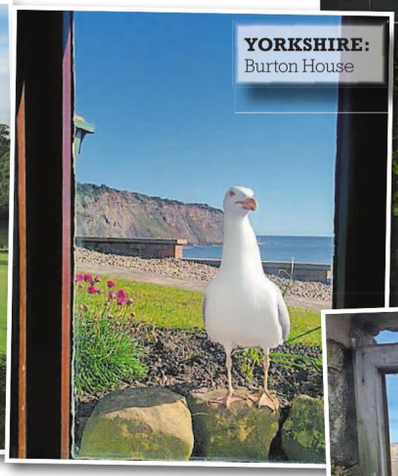
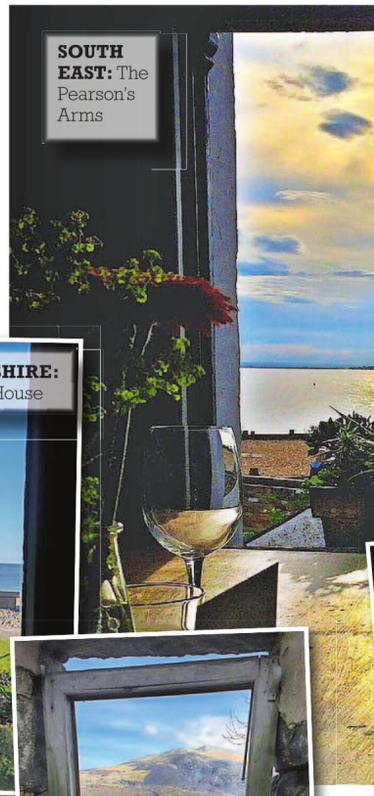
Whitstable pub's beautiful view takes on country's best

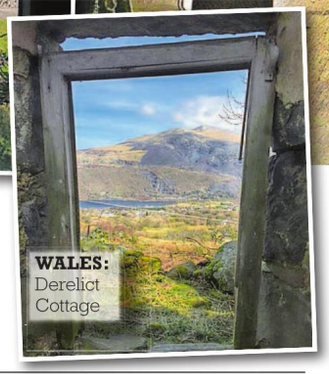
The vista from the Pearson's Arms of the Thames Estuary vies with some 11 other stunning shots from palaces, castles, cities and cathedrals for top title...

Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

LONDON: Kenwood House


YORKSHIRE: Burton House


SOUTH EAST: The Pearson's Arms


WALES: Derelict Cottage

A PUB in Whitstable is on the shortlist to be crowned as having one of the most beautiful views in the UK in a competition to find the window with the best vista.

The Pearson's Arms is the south east region's entry following a huge public vote, which saw thousands of people across the country select their favourite images of stunning architecture and landscapes.

The attraction went up against Cambridge University's the Anchor, Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, and Yarmouth Castle on the Isle of Wight in the south east area of the inaugural Window with a View competition, which was launched earlier this year.

The Pearson's Arms in Whitstable will now go up against finalists from 11 other areas across the country to fight it out for the UK title.

The pub, which is sat close to the beach, has an upstairs restaurant which gives diners the opportunity to look out across the Thames Estuary with the Sheppey coastline in view.

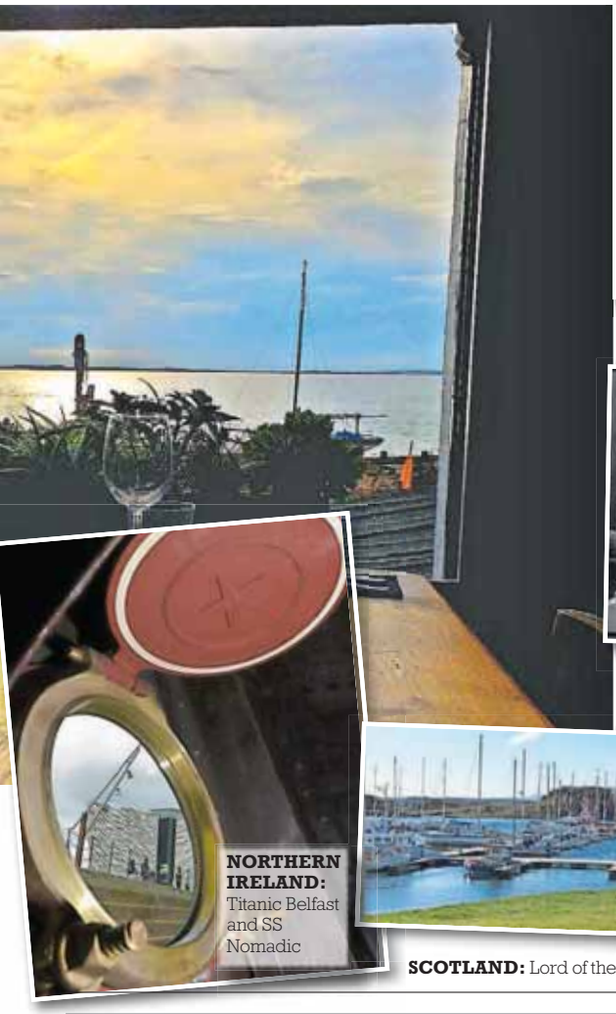
But it faces a tough challenge.

Other entries vying for the UK crown include entries from picturesque areas such as Craoh Marina on the west coast of Scotland, Peterborough Cathedral and the Museum of Liverpool.

Voting for the winner is all conducted online and closes on August 31. All those who enter are in with a chance of winning a Fujifilm Instax camera. The winner of the best view will be announced in September.

James Lee, of MyGlazing.com, which is organising the competition said: "We'd like to say a huge congratulations to the Pearson's Arms – it truly is a great feat given the standard of entries we received."

■ **To vote visit www.myglazing.com/WWAV.**



EAST MIDLANDS: Grimsthorpe Castle

EAST OF ENGLAND: Peterborough Cathedral

WEST MIDLANDS: Birmingham Library

SOUTH WEST: Godolphin Arms

NORTHERN IRELAND: Titanic Belfast and SS Nomadic

SCOTLAND: Lord of the Isles Craobh Marina

NORTH EAST: Baltic Centre for Contemporary Arts

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'COULD NOT BE HAPPIER': Singer-songwriter and entertainer Jane McDonald brings her new one-woman show to Dartford in September

Former Loose Woman is back with new tour for 2016

Singer-songwriter Jane McDonald, adds Kent date to her 20-night "epic" tour

AFTER finding fame on the BBC show The Cruise, Jane McDonald has tried her hand at not only singing but presenting, acting, and broadcasting, and now she's back on the road with a brand new one-woman touring show, Making Memories.

The former cruise ship singer says she "could not be happier" with where she is at in this stage of her life.

"When you get to a certain age, parts of your life start falling into place, and that is what has happened for me.

"It's a perk of getting old," quips Ms McDonald.

Her new show, which was a year in the making, comes before an greatly anticipated album which is set for release in 2018.

Ms McDonald comments that her new show "is a way for me to workshop my own songs.

"I'm in the middle of writing and producing a new album, and I have three songs left to write.

"This tour is an opportunity for me to preview the songs from my upcoming album to see if fans like what I'm doing," she adds.

The show has been promoted as "an exciting and emotionally charged evening of music and laughter" and Ms McDonald claims that this is not wrong.

"I'm known for being chatty and my fans have gotten to know me quite intimately," she says. "My show consists of me saying a lot of "guess what happened today" while mixed with memories, and carries themes of loss, love and hope."

She also hints that there are many "big moments" in the show, and informs that she pays tribute to Maurice White with an Earth, Wind and Fire song, along with Cilla Black.

With the first tour-date approaching on September 2, it's all speed ahead for Ms McDonald's tour preparation in these last three weeks.

When asked how she plans to spend the next three weeks Ms McDonald claims she's "terrible with lyrics and needs to get them into her head before the show starts."

But that she has more rehearsals with her crew, adding "my two dancers are phenomenal, and my work crew as a whole are fantastic."

Speaking of whether she misses home and friends when on the road, the actress is quick to chime in that "the tour bus is like going on holiday with mates.

"You learn with age to surround yourself with people who you really like and who really like you back.

"With my team everyone is here because they love it and we all have a good time on stage.

"Saying that though, thank god for the internet so I can stay in touch with those back home."

The tour has had two preview dates which Ms McDonald claims have received "brilliant reviews".

"I'm just bursting with pride for this show.

"People have said to me in the past that my shows can never get better than in that moment but everyone who has come to my previews have said this one is the best show I've ever done," beams the former Loose Woman.

The Making Memories tour is coming to the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on September 11.

To buy tickets, call the box office on 01322 220000

» Email us details of your event to:
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TAMARA, Indian woman, Muslim, 43, golden brown skin, long black straight hair, WLTM male in his 40s. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423153**

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 421657**

LISA, fun loving and free, WLTM passionate, broadminded male, any age, discreet honest, seaside location. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422877**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 422363**

WELL travelled widow, 70 years young, GSOH, lively and outgoing, lots of interests including walks, bowls, socialising and the theatre, WLTM similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423029**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715**

KIM, 50, lovely kind, 5ft 6, brown eyes, dark curly hair, curvy figure seeks nice genuine guy for LTR, same age as me. **Text only Mailbox: 5512493**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673**

KAY, 66, slim blonde, 5'5, very active, loves travel, outdoor life and much more. Seeks white guy 60-69 in Reading area. **Text only Mailbox: 5312512**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375**

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, shes very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422393**

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunette, 34yrs, own house/car wltm gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 422415**

FELICITY, well educated, sophisticated lady, 38yrs, unhappily married and looking for a distraction with a man 30+, must be discreet. **Text Only Box: 4023417**

MARIA 57, likes gym, outdoors, wildlife, seeking nice male for nights out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417573**

BLACK professional female seeks professional/tall Lebanese or Egyptian or Indian (must be fair skinned man)... for marriage. **Text only Mailbox: 5373562**

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469**

TAMLA, naughty but nice, curvy kitten! I am 46yrs and love to have some fun. Dates/Chats, something different. PIs call me. **Text Only Box: 4185035**

YOUNG at heart lady, 60s, genuine, seeks warm, down-to-earth gentleman, similar age, for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420773**

KATIE, 39yrs, loves dressing up, role play, fun etc. Hoping to meet like minded chap any age but must be understanding. **Text Only Box: 4085012**

GENUINE, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel, WLTM similar male for relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5453851**

WIDOW would like to meet a gent 64-74yrs with a good sense of humour, I love dancing, cinema, theatre, pub lunches, all the normal things. There must be someone out there and I live in Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418727**

LAURA, single mum, 29yrs, blue eyed blonde, fair skinned, pretty. Lonely and seeking adult company when the kids are in bed! ACA. **Text Only Box: 4161735**

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422411**

EARLY 70s, young at heart widow, likes dancing, eating out and in, pub lunches, theater and cinema, keep fit, the sun, WLTM gent 65-75, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421761**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

FEMALE, young 58, 5ft2, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. **Text only Mailbox: 4715158**

YOUNG 56 year old lady, gosh, 5ft5, larger lady, affectionate, likes eating out, films, music, socialising, looking for a relationship with a genuine, honest, loving, romantic man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421363**

SLIM blonde lady, very young 66, active, fun loving, many interests, seeks unattached white guy, 60-68, Reading area. **Text only to mailbox: 5312512**

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTM a reliable, sincere man for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5443434**

SUSAN 44, blonde hair, well educated, professional, GSOH, likes music, travel, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414069**

GEORGE you left Carole a message but I did not get your phone number, please call again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380942**

KAY, young 66, widow, slim, blonde, 5'5, GSOH. Very active, loves travel, outdoor life and loads more looking for white male. **Text only to mailbox no: 5312512**

LORNA, Afro-Caribbean lady, retired nurse, late 60s, seeking similar aged gentleman, n/s, someone who is kind and honest, looking for friendship. Croydon area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420183**

DAISY 50, WLTM nice guy 45-59 for discreet friendship maybe more. Likes going for a drink, rock music and holidays. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5082641**

CAROLE 52, long chestnut hair, attractive, 5ft 4ins, medium build, likes travel, animals, countryside, seeks Scottish male, under 57 with hair. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380448**

ANDREA pre-op transsexual, 56 years old, blonde hair blue eyes, likes cosy nights in, pubs meals out, long walks looking for a nice man. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310019**

MARINA cuddly blonde, blue eyes, kind, caring, loyal, down to earth, lonely girl. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414627**

CHANTELLE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883**

ELLEN, young retired, divorced, new to W Sussex, seeks friend for outings, dinners and similar. Must be 55-65 genuine, educated and fun. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5068020**

KAY 66 widow, slim, blonde 5'5. fun loving, loves travel, out door life and much more. Seeks similar man aged 59-69 for friendship, maybe more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5312512**

Men Seeking

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EASY going male 56, athletic build looking for a lady for fun times and leisure activities. Any age. I'm in Worthing. **Text only Mailbox: 5458706**

FUN loving, discreet man, looking for NSA friendship and fun with a very open minded lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423191**

COUNTRY gent, 50, seeks open minded lady, for fun and friendship, possibly more, by impulsive romantic, dining out and in, and sexy fun too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423127**

TALL, fit, hunky guy, early 50s, Basingstoke, would like some female company, to enjoy hot summer days and cold winter evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423149**

PENSIONER widower with car seeks sequence ballroom dancer who is good with naughty boys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418113**

HARRY, 56, attractive guy, divorced, looking for an attractive female for meet ups and erotic, sensual, no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423159**

WALLACE, 60, 5ft3, seeking a genuine petite lady, 57-67, likes holidays in Spain, looking for a LTR for love and much more. Surrey, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423313**

BEN, kind caring gent, 37yrs, very tall and well built with curly black hair. Own home, good job, just missing a special lady. **Text Only Box: 4158248**

CLIFF young 50s, working nights, has plenty free time in day, looking to meet lady for fun, maybe more. Age 30-55. **Text only Mailbox: 5495780**

BEN, 48, musician, nice looking, fit, 5ft10, intelligent, caring, charming, clean-cut image, seeks lady any age/looks who requires daytime, discreet, very passionate fun meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421399**

PAUL 51 genuine WLTM female 25-45 for friendship and fun, maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 5447746**

JOHN, Sussex gentleman, 6ft, very tactile, seeks lady, 30-60, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422903**

OLD pensioner/widower, with car, seeks female for adult fun and role-play, I also dance, sing and swim. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421139**

MATURE male, married, looking for adult daytime fun with a lady, any status/age/nationality, give me a call let s have some fun! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423077**

WIDOWER with car, seeks female ballroom/sequence dancer. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418377**

HOVE pensioner, widower, with a car, seeks dominant female for adult, naughty fun, age and looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419479**

MARK, 50, handsome, great physique, 5ft10, seeking a lady, 50-75, for morning or afternoon fun, chats and fantastic passion. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422945**

RYAN 50yrs, 5ft 9ins, medium build, considered attractive, N/S, lives London, loves Eastbourne, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404739**

SLIM Jamaican male, 68, n/s, likes walking, theatre, cinema and holidays, seeks slim to medium build West Indian lady, 65-68, n/s, for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422629**

WELL travelled, tall, fit widower in his 70's living in mid Sussex, seeks a lively widow for outings, stimulating conversation. **Text only Mailbox: 5473939**

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PAUL 46, 5ft 8ins, 14st, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, seeks Miss Right/soul mate, friend and lover, 30-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379206**

MATURE male seeks female, any age/status not important for casual fun. Nice flat, nice car. Witney. **Text only Mailbox: 5467178**

48YR old male, seeks female, 30-60 who enjoys the good things, meals out, cinema, theatre, music, holidays, weekends away etc. East Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386756**

JACK,55, good looking, fit and in shape WLTM broadminded lady, any age for social and relaxation interludes. **Text only Mailbox: 5458706**

PASSIONATE male missing female companionship, would you like to join me in discreet fun and adult humour? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406611**

PAUL 51, likes meals out, music, weekends away, seeking female to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413479**

ALAN, 56, single, from Brighton, looking for a lady, 50-59, who s nice and easy to get along with, and would be interested in going out for a drink and a meal and a chat then give me a call! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421955**

MALE, 42, fit, active, stocky, seeks larger lady, 40-50ish, for NSA fun, Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422481**

PAUL, 53, business man, genuine, likes eating out, films, music, holidays and having fun, WLTM a similar loving, caring female, age and looks unimportant, for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422521**

MALE 48, own business, average looks, medium build and looking for love. Must like the good things in life, 30-55yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390746**

76YR old widower, ex military/air lines, likes boating, motor cycling, seeks Tinkerbelle to make me laugh again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409201**

MALE, 47, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, looking for female, 39-51, with very GSOH, loyal, honest, caring, single mum welcome, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422315**

THOMAS athletic, easygoing, likes sports, meals out, cinema, nights out, seeks female, 40-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388192**

MALE, 47, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, separated, have grown up teenagers, lives alone, works full time, looking for that special someone that will lead to a LTR and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421943**

OUTGOING friendly guy seeks similar female to share good times with. **Text only Mailbox: 4915263**

JACK 55, slim, athletic, clean, intelligent, WLTM female 35 to 55 for relaxing and stress free interludes WORTHING area text only. **Text only Mailbox: 5458706**

HELLO I'm Tom, 33, decent looking, fit, into the gym and running, loves animals, get in touch and leave me a message! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422065**

HOWARD, works full time as a psychic, lives in Hastings, looking for a likeminded female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422255**

49YR old male, interesting, exciting, outgoing, seeking similar aged female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417825**

LADY, 70+ sought by caring and affectionate 70 year old male, for long term, intimate relationship, initially daytimes only, larger lady very welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421995**

Gay Seeking

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BI male, seeking to meet pre op TS or TV, for no stings attached, local fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422647**

BI guy WLTM similar bi or gay guy, 18-30. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421283**

TOBY, 41yrs, recently divorced, now seeking different relationship, bi curious but not gay, like minded to me, any age. **Text Only Box: 4125006**

60S bi male, WLTM similar guys for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423273**

MALE, 68yrs, 5ft 4ins looking for genuine gay male, similar height and size. **Text only Mailbox: 4859409**

MATURE bi male seeks similar for fun and friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 4641909**

Friends

FEMALE seeking genuine straight female for daytrips, out to meet socially for lunch/coffee. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4748240**

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Open-air cinema presents 2016 adaptation of The Jungle Book

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

NO one wants to sit inside for two-hours watching a screen in the summer, but when you can watch the film outside, that's a whole other ball game.

The outdoor cinema showing of The Jungle Book (2016) is playing on August 28, as a great ending to 2016's last bank holiday weekend.

Maidstone Borough Council is preparing for the upcoming event at Whatman Park, by giving away a family ticket (two adults plus two children).

The recently released film features stars such as Scarlett Johansson, Idris Elba, Ben Kingsley, and Bill Murray, and was directed by Iron Man director Jon Favreau.

The story is similar to the original gripping Rudyard Kipling tale of orphan boy Mowgli and his circle of animal friends and guardians.

The movie is no longer available to see in cinemas but is yet to be released on DVD, and IMDb have given the adaptation an impressive 7.7 stars.

The Guardian's review, said: "Hyperreal digital animation meets old-fashioned storytelling in this faithful remake, which loses the songs but brings new, ingenious twists on the original."

Time's review, claims: "Somehow this Jungle Book works, because Favreau has both a sense of humour and a sense of spectacle.

"Even in 3D, the colours – a riot of cobalts and canary yellows – are vibrant."

Tickets for the event are currently available via the Hazlitt Theatre website, but for one family, there is the opportunity to win a family ticket,

All you have to do to enter is to like the status about the event on Visit Maidstone's Facebook page.

Those then looking to win the competition will then be entered into a prize draw.

Winners will be announced by Maidstone council on August 24.

For those who don't win the family ticket, onlne tickets are £12.50 – adults, £8.50 – children (under 16), and £35 – family.

You can buy tickets on-the-door subject to availability for, £15 – adult, £11 – children, and £45 – family.

Doors open at 6pm and the film begins at 7.30pm so get your picnics and blankets ready.

KING OF THE SWINGERS : An open-air cinema can be an exciting family evening activity

Music for Change fun day

THE community charity, Music for Change, has organised a fun-day of music in Dane John Gardens, Canterbury, on August 29.

Headlining the event is Family Atlantica, and event has free admission.

War commemoration play

MUSICAL drama, A Day's Work, will be performed in Ashford on November 26.

The show commemorates the First World War and The Battle of the Somme, and was written by scriptwriter, composer and singer Mick Ryan.

Tickets are £14 (£17 on the door) and can be purchased from Tenterden Folk Festival.

50 women artists exhibit

WOMEN artists will exhibit their artwork between August 24 to 30 at The Horsebridge Art Centre, Whitstable.

The theme of their pieces is skin and the show will include films and sculptures.

Gravesend Art Group

GRAVESEND Art Group is holding its annual exhibition from August 27 to September 4.

It will take place at St Andrew's Art Centre and the borough's deputy mayor will officially open the exhibition at the preview on the evening of August 26.

Paintings and postcards will be on sale.

In The Woods full line-up

IN The Woods Festival 2016 has now announced its line-up with Benjamin Francis Leftwich and The Invisible + Friends as headliners.

Tickets are available from inthewoodsfestival2016.co.uk

We Love Hythe Food Fest

THE inaugural We Love Hythe Life Food Festival will be held at Hythe Cricket Club on August 28-29. With more than 35 stalls, it promises to be the largest food event Hythe has ever seen.

Entry to the festival is free, with designated parking available on Hythe Green.

Fancy something full fat?

MILK Fest have again this year put together a programme which showcases the cream of Kent.

The event takes place on August 26-19 at The Milk House in Sissinghurst.

Wye Farmers' market

SELLING food of all varieties including picnic, BBQ, and summer indulgence food, Wye Farmers' Market is something you won't want to miss out on.

You can visit the market on the green in the centre of Wye every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, from 9am until noon.

The Power Of Love tribute comes to Hever

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

A CELINE Dion tribute show may not be up everyone's street but for those who live to belt out the Titanic theme song into a hairbrush, this might be the event for you.

The Power of Love, a show which pays tribute to Celine Dion, is heading to Hever Castle for avid fans who wish to relive the iconic star's musical hits.

The production not only celebrates her voice, but also the woman, and her songs, and is influenced by Ms Dion's Las Vegas show which has unsurprisingly sold out in the past, and is also due to restart this September.

The tribute artist, Eloise Grey, will be accompanied on stage by a live band and dancers who plan to take the audience through Ms Dion's life's work.

Ms Grey, who will be playing Ms Dion, has just finished playing Baby in the UK tour of A Night of Dirty Dancing, in which she received brilliant reviews deeming her "sensational" and likening her to the original Baby, Jennifer Grey.

Following her previous performances under the same producer, Ms Grey has formed a solid fan base, with more than 1,000 followers on Twitter and 500 likes on her professional Facebook page.

Her talents must be appreciated by show producer, Philip Hawkins for he has made her his lead not once but twice.

Mr Hawkins, also produced You Win Again – a Bee Gee tribute show, and A Night of Dirty Dancing, so here's hoping his new show matches the success of his last two shows.

The Power of Love promises to include well-loved favourites of Ms Dion such as, My Heart Will Go On, Think Twice, Because You Loved Me, Tell Him, It's All Coming Back To Me, All By Myself, and of course The Power of Love.

The show is previewing at Hever Castle, on August 27, as a one-off special before the UK-wide tour begins in October.

To book tickets, call the box office: 01732 866114

TRIBUTE: Eloise Grey shines

SHOWCASE: The performance will be a one off preview

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Plates that really are well worth the Whaite

Despite his success, Great British Bake Off winner John Whaite felt restless about his latest cookery book...

JOHN Whaite felt restless about his latest cookery book.

Since winning the third series of The Great British Bake Off, the 27-year-old has published two books – Perfect Plates being his third – regularly whizzed up meals for Lorraine Kelly on her ITV morning show and founded a cookery school.

But his recent cook book, his most "personal" yet, was also the hardest.

"I lost sleep over the book, all the panic over how people would receive it," says the Lancashire-born cook.

"The first two books, I was in my very early 20s. I was this grateful guy, who had just won a TV show. I didn't have a clue what was going on, what the industry was about," says the law graduate, who was in his final year at Manchester University when he appeared on the BBC baking competition.

"I am much more anxious about this book – and it feels like my first true book, because I've had such an input.

"It's much more a reflection of me. When you put the effort into it, you really do worry and think, 'If people don't like this, then what's going to happen?'"

Worry though he might, Whaite's diary is full. Cookery classes, including pasta making and an afternoon tea – "We devour all these cakes and sandwiches with Prosecco... so that's a popular one!" - in the listed barn on his parent's Lancashire farm he grew up in, are "almost completely sold out", meaning he's up and down the country whizzing up meals on ITV's Lorraine between courses.

PERFECT PLATES: John Whaite

Not that he minds.

"Lorraine was my saving grace... I didn't know where I was going to go in the industry [after Bake Off]," he says of the Scottish host.

"Lorraine's not fussy, she doesn't have any dietary requirements and she's a girl who loves her food, so she's a dream to cook for, she'll eat it all," he says with a laugh.

And he's proud too of Perfect Plates, in which he uses just five ingredients – exempting oil, butter, salt and pepper as 'free passes' - and teamed up with boyfriend Paul, who designed it.

"It's the first food book that he's ever done, so it probably made it far more difficult [for him] because he had me stood over his shoulder every night saying, 'I don't want that there'," he says with a chuckle.

"He really has helped develop my own style, because I'm not very artistic, so it meant it was much more personal to us and I think that comes across.

"I think people appreciate it not just being a highly-designed book. It's more pared-back as well and the ingredients are what stand out. I'm really proud of that."

Mulhern does panto

TV presenter Stepthen Mulhern is set to return to the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, for its 2016 pantomime.

He will be accompanied on stage by panto favourites Ben Roddy and Lloyd Hollett for a production of Dick Wittington.

Young female performers have the chance to appear in Dick Whittington, and auditions are being held at The Marlowe Studio on September 4.

Eurovision in Dartford

BROTHERHOOD of Man will be playing in Dartford on September 18.

The Eurovision Song Contest winners will be performing their hit singles including Save Your Kisses For Me at The Orchard.

The band will be made up of all four original competition winners and this year marks the 40th anniversary of their win.

Tickets can be purchased from the box office, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

Joan to do it all alone

ACTRESS Joan Collins will be coming to Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on October 5.

Her new one-woman show for 2016 will share stories from her celebrated life and career as an actress, philanthropist and author.

The show will include a Q&A session where the audience can ask Collins anything.

For tickets, visit marlowetheatre.com or call 01227 787787

ABBA tribute 40th date

THANK You For The Music, the ABBA concert show, will arrive at the Stag Community Arts Centre in Sevenoaks on October 1.

The show will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Swedish quartet's number-one hit Dancing Queen, and the set list will include international favourites such as Waterloo.

Tickets can be purchased from the box office on 01484 223200.

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Happy kids mean happy you!

WHILE it's all well and good having a bank holiday weekend coming up to look forward to, this also means that for some parents you either need to find a babysitter or something for your little tikes to do.

But fear not, because Kent has a whole host of activities to keep the kids entertained and more importantly happy for their extra day off school.

In this guide, ***Emily King***, has a number of suggestions for things for you and your little ones to do...

Rides

WITH Diggerland, and Dreamland, Kent's theme park offering has something for kids of all ages.

So why not fill the extra time provided by the bank holiday with a thrillseeker's idea of a heavenly day out?

For the kids who love rides, Margate's Dreamland, is as it says on the tin, a dream. It's iconic Scenic Railway will be open again in time for the bank holiday weekend, meaning if you've missed out on the beloved ride this summer, you can catch it then.

Alternatively, you could don your hard hat and have a go at driving some heavy metal at Strood's Diggerland.

Parks

BEING in the Garden of England, it doesn't come as a shock that there are an array of parks to take advantage of during the bank holiday.

Betteshanger Park in Deal is holding a Wild Weekend, which consists of cooking up a storm on a Wild Cooking Workshop, learning the art of willow craft at the Woodland Craft Workshop, birds of prey displays, and animal trails.

Or you could take them to look for some gruesome discoveries with Leeds Castle's Spy School. Kids will be encouraged to crack codes, decode ciphers, and seek the help of other spies for help throughout the gardens.

Animals

MAYBE you have some aspiring vets in the family or kids desperate for a pet that you're trying to put off buying?

Well, this might mean taking them to a farm might be the best option for the holiday weekend.

The Hop Farm Family Park in Tonbridge is home to goats, llamas, ponies, ferrets, and birds of prey, while also providing attractions such as combat laser quest, driving school, outdoor adventure play area, and rides.

And the best part is, that admission for the day, including all the attractions, is £1.

Cinema

CINEMA is a great option for kids, they get immersed in the movie and it takes up a good 1 hour 30 minutes of the day. But with the great weather recently, why not visit an outdoor cinema?

Whatman Park in Maidstone is showing The Jungle Book (2016) on the Sunday evening of the bank holiday weekend. Grab your picnic and a blanket.

On another note, the British weather is notoriously unpredictable, so perhaps the cinema at Bluewater is an option.

The Showcase Cinema de Lux has 13 screens, with leather seats in every one.

If you're feeling particularly generous you could also purchase gallery tickets, so you and your little ones can sit in the VIP gallery.

Festivals

SUMMER festivals are a great way of getting the kids outdoor for the day, or whole weekend, to try new activities that they wouldn't necessarily get the opportunity to try everyday.

Herne Bay Festival has heaps of entertainment throughout the weekend. Kids can compete in Herne Bay's Got Talent to win a photoshoot experience plus two tickets for a new playzone in the area.

Plus on the Sunday there's also the finalé fireworks display on Neptune's Arm Beach.

Or you could take the kids for a day of music at Music On The Green in Bearsted on Sunday the 28th.

The event promises to have boutique food stalls, and entertainment for the whole family.

Local artists are also set to play the event, with some of the line-up including Starks Family Band, The Mofos, and The Kick Backs.

Who knows, maybe your musical day may make a star out of your little one?

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Enjoy the Bank Holiday with a family visit to the Captain Digby. There's lots of activities to keep the kids happy including our indoor and outdoor play areas.

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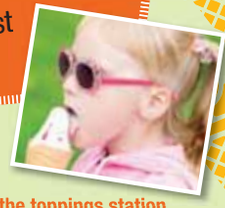

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www.kentlife.org.uk
Kent Life, Lock Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3AU. Junction 6 of the M20. T: 01622 763936

Kids away, so adults can play

HERE 's hoping a babysitter is available for the weekend. And if that is the case, we've put together a whole host of attractions taking place over the bank holiday.

From galleries and theatres, to festivals and concerts, there's something to suit everyone.

Why not kick back, relax, and enjoy an activity you don't usually get a chance to try on any other weekend.

With so much going on in Kent, it would be hard to stay in.

This is our guide as to what's on and where to catch it...

Galleries

EXHIBITIONS are taking place at galleries all across the county.

Margate's Turner Contemporary has its Seeing Round Corners exhibition taking place at the moment.

The exhibition brings together artworks presenting themes such as roundness, rotation, and visual perception.

Another exhibition worth checking out might be Prescriptions at The Beany in Canterbury.

It shows 15 book artworks by Martha Hall about her experience with breast cancer and interactions with the medical community from 1998 to her death in 2003.

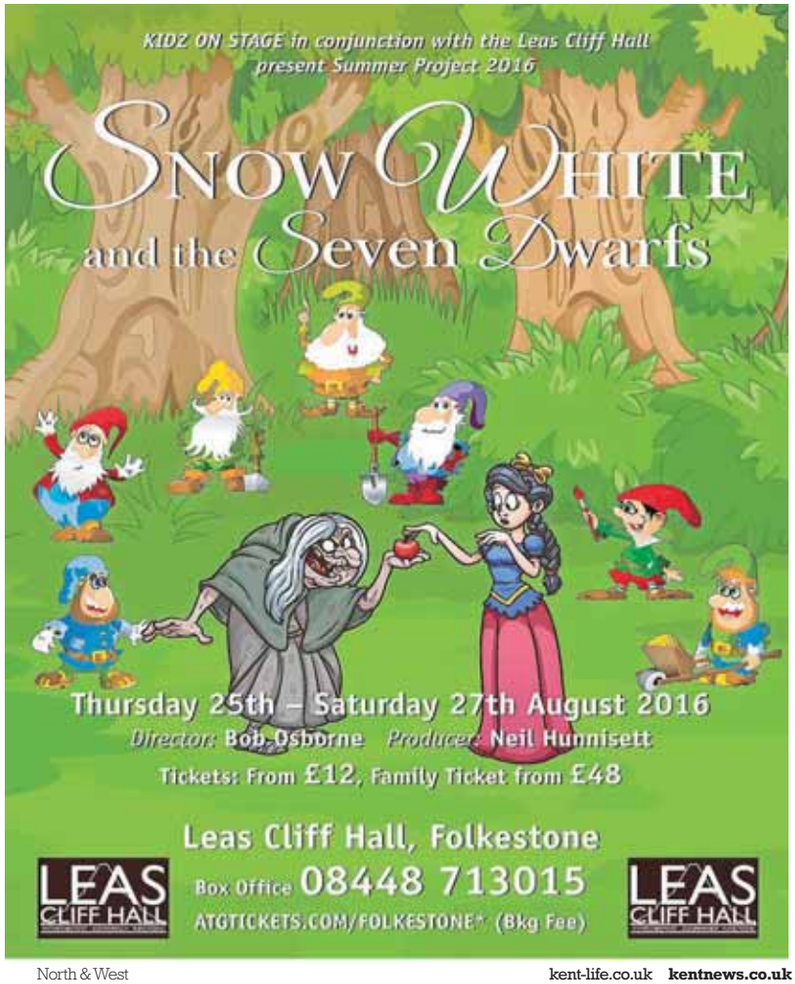
Festivals

ON a different note to the family festivals, are the beer festivals taking place throughout Kent next weekend.

The Artisan Cider Festival in Brogdale promises to be "bigger and better than ever for 2016". You'll be able to shop local produce and craft while sampling artisan food which perfectly complements local ciders.

However, if you're closer to the Faversham area, the beer festival taking place at The Plough Inn might be more up your street.

There will be a different live set each day (Saturday to Monday) along with beers, ciders, and cocktails.



Markets

WHILE farmer's markets may be a regular thing, you might find that on an average weekend, you need your Sundays to get things done.

Why not use your Monday for the mundane things next weekend, and treat yourself to a farmers' market browse on the Sunday?

Markets taking place next Sunday include Tunbridge Wells, West Malling, Bearsted, Bridge, and Cliftonville.

Maybe it's worth a morning out to sample some local produce, and have a walk through your local area before heading home for a hearty roast.

Theatres

KENT'S theatre offering is vast and varied, guaranteeing something to please everyone.

Tunbridge Wells' Trinty Theatre is holding a stage production of Monty Python's Spamalot throughout the bank holiday weekend and right up until September 3. The show claims to feature "fantastic tunes more magical than at a Camelot convention."

Or perhaps you're more of a fright fan? The production of Jekyll and Hyde at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley might be something to appease your thrillseeker appetite.

The play is also taking place throughout next weekend and consists of a star-studded cast of Gary Turner (Emmerdale), Kim Taylforth (Bad Girls) and Marcus Hutton (Brookside).

Concerts

YOU could make use of the long weekend and enjoy some live music.

If you're a Beatles fan then look no further than the Margate Winter Gardens, as they're hosting a The Magic Of The Beatles concert.

The night will consists of a two-hour concert featuring all of the classic songs of the Fab Four, from Love Me Do, to Let It Be.

The band will be on stage in replica costumes and instruments, for this superb show that's packed with hits and history from start to finish.

Chaz and Dave are playing at Dartfords' Orchard Theatre on the Saturday following on from their latest album, That's What Happens.

Over the last two years the pair have headlined the Royal Variety Show, sold out the Royal Albert Hall, and performed an arena hall with Status Quo.

They promise to perform all their hits including Gertcha, Sideboard Song, Rabbit, Aint No Pleasing You, and Down to Margate, just to name a few!

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2016

KENT LIFE
Kent on Sunday
kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk
FOOD&DRINKAWARDS2016

Headline Sponsor

ALARIS

NOMINATIONS are now being invited for the 2016 Kent Life and Kent onSunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 17 from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs, cafes and hoteliers.

All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies included will all be nominated by you, our Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers.

We want to know if you've enjoyed a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also available to complete online at kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners.

Entries close on August 7. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, starting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our fourth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online.

We are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business.

■ **Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag**

Kent Life and *Kent on Sunday* Food & Drink Awards 2016 Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at **kentfda@archant.co.uk**

Please post your entry form to:
Food & Drink Awards 2016.
Archant Kent,
Kent House, 81 Station Road,
Ashford TN23 1PP

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to advertise your entry are available __at **www.kent-life.co.uk** and at **www.kentnews.co.uk**.

The closing date for entries is Sunday, August 7, 2016

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Email.....

By entering your details you will be automatically added to the Archant database, Archant will contact you with relevant offers and you can unsubscribe from this at any time. If you would prefer not to be contacted, please state 'no offers' on this form.

Newcomer of the Year
Sponsored by Clive Emson Land & Property auctioneers

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Independent food or drink retailer of the Year
Sponsored by Illuminate Skin Clinic

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Cafe of the Year
Sponsored by K Sports

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Food Producer of the Year
Sponsored by Motorline Maserati

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Drinks Producer of the Year

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Farm Shop of the Year

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Farmers' Market of the Year
Sponsored by Perry's Chartered Accountants

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Pub of the Year
Sponsored by Eastwell Manor

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Restaurant of the Year
Sponsored by The Foxhunter Park

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Chef of the Year
Sponsored by the Canterbury Auction Galleries

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Customer Service of the Year
Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year

Who? .....

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Where? .....

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Why? .....

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NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

This popular category is open to anyone in the food and drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months.

We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield.

Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR

This celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure.

The retailer who includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate.

Our winner will have a special 'must-have' range as well as making a real contribution to their local community.

Paying a visit to their shop will be a treat in itself.

CAFE OF THE YEAR

This category has changed from the previous Tea Shop of the Year to include places that also specialise in coffee! Tea and coffee shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene. Who makes the best tea and coffees, serves the nicest cakes and biscuits and the freshest scones? Are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled?

Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We look forward to hearing your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local producers.

We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top quality local produce and service to their customers.

We are also keen to hear of any innovations.

If they're doing something new, we'd like to hear about it.

So if your local baker, grocer or farmer delights then please let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local drink producers.

Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy.

We want to know who you think makes the best drink, alcoholic or not, in the county, and what it is that makes it so special.

We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, introducing a fabulous new flavour, then we would like to all hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt farmers away from their local supermarkets.

Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme?

Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

Nominate your favourite farm shop now.

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR

The key to a good farmers' market Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports – for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? ? Let us know so we can tell everyone the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR

A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We're looking for an inn that also offers delicious locally-sourced food, fantastic customer service and real value for money. Pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community.

If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced? Do they support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Do they have local as well as international wines and champagnes and can the staff tell you more if you ask?

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Kent is blessed with some outstanding chefs working in a fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to serving the best possible food. They'll demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. Above all, we are looking for passion – that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR

Most of our awards recognise customer service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake.

Do you know a person, organisation or establishment that offers fabulous service that goes above and beyond what you expect?

We all know excellent service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, then let us know.

KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK as you would expect from the Garden of England.

As well as being blessed with some of the final local produce around, the county also has a variety of fantastic eateries located in local towns and villages.

This category will be celebrating the individual who has made a positive impact on the county's food or drink community.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile in order to help promote Kent to a wider audience?

Someone who has show that they are passionate about local produce throughout?

Now is the chance for you to nominate your very own Kent Food and Drink hero and give them the recognition that they deserve.

Get in contact with us and let us know who you think would be a worthy winner.

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Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter: @kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Manston plans take flight again

IN REPLY to Mr Ward Moorhouse's letter of August 14 about Manston Airport, amongst other things, being allowed to come to a natural end and a new phase being permitted to take place, I couldn't agree more.

In the past the passenger side of the airport didn't always work, for whatever reasons, (although KLM were doing well when the airport was closed down) and public money was indeed spent. However, if American private equity company, RiverOak, succeed in getting a Development Consent Order (DCO) granted by the Secretary of State for Transport, on the grounds that Manston Airport is of national significance (NSIP), especially in the present aviation climate of the South East, then NO public money will be needed and Thanet will prosper from a uniquely specialised, regenerated cargo hub and tear-down facility, providing thousands of permanent jobs in Thanet.

For those who attended RiverOak's non-statutory, pre-consultation events recently, they will have learnt that there is also provision for passenger activity in their plans, as well as facilities for private light aircraft and a flying school, as well as educational links with East Kent colleges and universities. Plus, lots more attractive features to enhance one of the most deprived areas in the country.

This compares to the alternative that Thanet residents have been offered by the present owners – apparently no definite takers yet for manufacturing, but some temporary construction jobs provided over 20 years, whilst 2,500 new houses are built on the airfield and given a stone cold name. Then what? We live under the flight path, but give me Manston Airport every time.

Angela Stevens,
Ramsgate

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Investment is needed now in our railways

CANTERBURY Councillors are currently talking to Network Rail about Canterbury West station, which cannot meet rapidly rising commuter use. Yet the long overdue Canterbury Parkway station is not even on Kent County Council's wish list. (KoS, August 14).

The new junction station at Cliff End, a manifesto commitment for 2020, will be a welcome and important contribution to economic development in East Kent. But, despite the high cost, we cannot overlook the need for an adequate station at Canterbury.

Most of the high-speed trains to Canterbury are now twelve coaches long, leaving four coaches unable to open their doors at the station. This problem has to be addressed.

More generally, safety issues are the top priority for rail investment in Kent.

In the most recent year for which figures are available, ten people, of whom eight were pedestrians, were killed at level crossings across the nation. Such deaths have been occurring at similar levels for years; but nothing is being done to replace level crossings with bridges.

Because of the electrification system used here, Kent has more than its share of accidents at crossings and on the lineside. Replacement of third rail by overhead electrification would pay for itself through lower running costs.

Railway investment is currently being concentrated almost exclusively on Scotland, on central London, and on high speed lines between major cities. This is unacceptable when major safety issues are unmet on existing railways in the South East.

Frederic Stansfield,
Ramsgate

Will fracking be threat to future?

I HAD thought the debate on the dangers of the unconventional extraction of oil and gas known as 'fracking' was reaching its end as it is estimated that only 21 per cent are in favour of it becoming an addition to the mix of power resources for the UK. Therefore the prime minister's proposal for a public debate on its merits and drawbacks appeared to me to be a resurrection of a done debate, rather than a fresh idea for the future.

There is now an overwhelming consensus among scientists around the world who are concerned with climate change and the gradual increase in global temperature year on year. The danger of ignoring this pressing evidence will not necessarily become clear immediately and therefore the need for changes in the ways we produce power for domestic use, may to some, seem unnecessary. However by ignoring the signs now will be putting our future generations at great risk regarding their well being and survival.

Incredulity regarding climate change has dangerous effects. Many of its doubters, are or have been, involved in, or dependant upon the fossil fuel extraction industries which have powered the development of Westernised wealthy cultures over the last two centuries. The cost has been a higher percentage of carbon and other industrial emissions being released into the delicate mixture of gases present in the earths atmosphere. As this continued it was always going to reach critical levels that would have effects upon the atmosphere and physical environment that humans share with all other forms of life. The majority of climate related scientists are warning that danger to life is imminent if we do not adjust to new ways of providing energy.

All this sounds rather pessimistic and we are more likely to be drawn to optimistic assessments of the future of the earths inhabitants, which has until now signalled a progressive march forward, resolving problems and removing obstacles. The problem this time is the ability of the earth itself to continue to provide the conditions for life to flourish and propagate. We need to engage with these challenges now if we are to continue to preserve and cherish our indomitable and profound optimism for future generations.

Graham Joseph Gladman,
via email

Now calm down you Brexiteers...

IT SEEMS the three unwise; and hysterical in both senses in my view; Brexiteers – Messrs Steerpike, Granger and Carr – cannot stand, like the brass monkeys, any 'evil' about the EU vote. The fact remains though that elections are legally binding whereas most referendums, including the EU one, are merely advisory.

Further, by two weeks after the vote around 15% of Lever voters wanted to change it as opposed to about 45 of Remainers. Run the vote again today and we'd have the opposite, albeit close, and still non-binding result!

As for Mrs May's "Brexit means Brexit", this was a mere slogan; and we still have little idea what it will entail in actuality. Recall also how she claimed to back ordinary people over the powerful; but then supported the divisive selection grammar schools; backed large fracking corporations and cash bungs after the fact to those affected; and now mere short-term funding for farmers and science etc after any loss of EU grants. Not very encouraging so far is it?

They all also write in similar fingers-crossed, nationalistic terms over the future, seemingly oblivious to a now contracting and teetering on recession economy as studies from the NIESR and Markit/CIT monitoring groups, among many others, are showing. This with pension pots starting to be hit (eg: Post Office); and savers hit again by the Bank of England's near desperate attempts at stimulus.

Thus I suggest they prize off their rose-tinted, backward looking glasses and realise that it wasn't the EU per se, but the neoliberal deregulation of financial markets, corporate tax dodging and unravelling of welfare etc around the world; and which they all voted for I assume?; that led to things seeming to decline over the last 40 years or so.

So I stand by my calls; difficult though it may be; for people's common-cause across the EU for ground-up reform; including our own system; an end to austerity, closing tax havens and investing for decant jobs, pay and conditions etc.

As once again Churchill might have said: "Let all Europe go forward together".

Ray Duff,
Folkestone

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Reculver towers

by **Adam Dark, from Ramsgate**

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West Kent College oozes success

WEST Kent College offers the ideal opportunity for students who want to study A-Levels in a new environment, with courses offering a career and university focus.

Hugo Woollam joined West Kent College from a private school. With passes in politics, history and law, he is heading to his preferred choice, the University of Hull, to study politics and economics.

He said: "I'm hoping to get a graduate job on Whitehall or take a commission with the Royal Navy."

Daisy Jardine-Viner, is now off to study international business at her first choice, the University of East Anglia after achieving an A,B,C in her exams. She said: "Following my degree, I plan to start up my own design company."

Many students were accepted to their first choice university, including Lucy Skipper – Southampton University to study English; Jemma Wells – BSc in criminology at the University of Portsmouth; and Thomas Garrett –BA in Acting at the University of Central Lancashire.

This year, the college's A-level pass rate was 96.8 per cent overall, while the A*-C grade pass rate was 58 per cent.

Jim Mawby, head of faculty for academic studies, said: "We are very proud of our A-level students, who have worked hard to achieve excellent results.

"We are pleased so many of them have met the entry requirements for their university courses, and we wish them all future success."

CELEBRATE: Lucy Skipper and her family beam with pride at her results

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RATED ★★★★★
SCHOOL GUIDE

Kent College's excellence is 'a habit'

KENT College students and staff are celebrating another excellent year for A-level results, with more than 70 pe cent passed at grades A*-B and a 100 per cent pass rate.

Particular congratulations for high levels of academic achievement go to the following top performers at A-level: Frank Radcliffe-Adams, Lotty Astbury, Emma Chu, Samuel Cox, Eloise Gauzan, Thomas Gray, Rahul Gupte, Matthew Lai, Antonio Marelli, Callum Monro, Jonathan Nevett, Nicole Ratti, Sam Sherwood, Ellie Stone, Man Tsoi, Katrina Yao, Matthew Yip, Rosie White.

These results follow IB outcomes which were again excellent. The results will enable access to top universities in the UK and further afield: Head boy, Sam Hines scored an almost perfect 43 points and will study History at Christchurch, Oxford; Jules Frank gained 42 points and has been awarded a scholarship at prestigious Bocconi University in Milan reading Economics; Greta Milesi achieved 41 points and will follow a Liberal Studies programme at Durham University; and Allyx Guitard scored 40 points and has won a place to study Law at Exeter College, University of Oxford.

SUCCESS: Kent College students celebrate their A-level successes... their hard work has delighted headmaster Dr David Lamper

Along with top scores in the IB announced in July, these A level results secure UCAS points (the basis for university offers) with an average of over 400 per student: the equivalent of A* A* A.

All students gained places at their universities of choice including Oxbridge. Top musicians also performed well: Hannah Parry secured her place at the Royal Academy of Music and Tom Ashdown a place at the Royal Northern College of Music.

News of two former Kent College IB students reached us recently: Thomas Sayer graduated from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, with a double first in Natural Sciences and Claudia Sanchez Jimenez not only achieved a first from St Hugh's College, Oxford, but the highest mark that Oxford has ever awarded for a degree in Archaeology and Anthropology. Not surprisingly, both will continue as PhD students.

Headmaster, Dr David Lamper said:"I am delighted with the very high levels of academic achievement shown by the students who took examinations this summer. They worked extremely hard whilst at the same time adding an immense amount to the extra curricular, musical, dramatic and sporting life of our community. They have been excellent ambassadors of Kent College and they deserve every success.

"I am also delighted for my colleagues who have worked so hard in supporting and nurturing the development of all our students. Many congratulations to them all."

holidays

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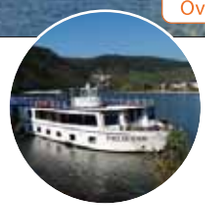

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* *Price based on mid-grade MD2 cabin with travel by Rail.*

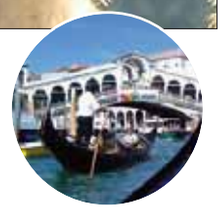
Madeira Carnival

By Air from Gatwick

22 February, 2017 • Quote: MC2-KOS

The Carnival of Madeira is known as one of the best in Europe. There are two main parades - the allegoric parade features thousands of participants in magnificent colourful costumes dancing to electrifying Samba music through the streets of the capital, Funchal. The second, called Trapalhao, features carnival goers in daring costumes and local caricatures. Included excursions take in the best of the island.

INCLUDED: Return flights Gatwick to Funchal with luggage • 7 nights stay at a 4-star hotel in Funchal • 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners from the buffet, plus afternoon coffee and cake • Drinks included with lunch and dinner - aperitifs, local wine, beer, soft drinks and local spirits • Entertainment on 3 evenings • 2 half days and 1 full-day excursion • Seating for the carnival • Airport/hotel transfers in Madeira • Services of our representative in resort



Venice Carnival

By Air from Gatwick

19 February, 2017 • Quote: VC2-3-KOS

Come with us to the magical city of Venice at Carnival time. We stay at a 4-star hotel in the heart of the city and enjoy a guided walking tour, a water bus tour, a visit to the glass works at Murano and plenty of time to explore at leisure.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights with luggage from Gatwick to Venice • 4 nights B&B stay at the 4-star Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal, Venice • 1 dinner • Excursions • Transfers abroad

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driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SECTOR STAR: Mitsubishi's Outlander PHEV has driven a twenty-fold increase in UK plug-in hybrid sales over the past two years

LEADING PLAYER (ABOVE): the Mitsubishi L100 pick-up

CROSSOVER CONTENDER (BELOW): the current Mitsubishi ASX

Plug-in success powers revival

BRAND UPDATE: Mitsubishi's Outlander SUV has seized more than half the UK's plug-in hybrid sector and rejuvenated the brand's overall market share

MITSUBISHI has been revitalised by the award-winning Outlander PHEV it launched just over two years ago.

It has also turbocharged UK plug-in hybrid demand: this accounted for just 989 cars overall in 2013, but there are now 21,053 Outlander PHEVs (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles) on our roads.

And it continues to dominate the sector with more than half of all PHEVs sold so far this year being the Mitsubishi.

The Japanese marque claims its success is down to impressive fuel economy (156mpg – combined cycle) and road tax exempt ultra-low emissions (42g/km CO2) in a vehicle with 4x4 go-anywhere ability.

Combining electric and petrol power it has a range of 541 miles too, with 32 miles in electric mode alone - more than enough to accommodate an average daily commute.

It also qualifies for the Government's £2,500 plug-in car grant, while company car user choosers and commuters are drawn by exemption from the London congestion charge and a low Benefit in Kind tax, saving them several thousand pounds a year.

The good news for 'Mitsi' and its customers is that it could soon be joined by a smaller PHEV based on the ASX – the brand's crossover contender.

... AND THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME: Ground Tourer Concept hints at styling of next Mitsubishi ASX

The ASX – itself a well-priced star in Mitsubishi's line-up – was given a revamp earlier this year, but the future will be unveiled at the Paris Motor Show in October when the next generation ASX makes its appearance.

Based on Mitsi's slinky Ground Tourer Concept car it should appeal on both style and technology fronts and could be available in late 2017, with low emission powertrains expected to include the latest plug-in hybrid technology.

Meanwhile, the brand still has a firm grip on the business that has been its rock over several decades: the pick-up market virtually founded by the L100 – still a leading player.

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Surf, sand and Citroën's C4 special edition

Citroën's Cactus already stood out in a desert of motoring sameness and now aims to ride the wave of surfing culture writes **Steve Loader...**

YOU might ask what cactus and surfing have in common and the obvious link is sand. But Citroën must be thinking on a higher level with its new C4 Cactus Rip Curl Special – a tie-up with global surf brand, Rip Curl.

Featuring Rip Curl graphics on the wings and rear quarter-lights, white roof rails and door mirrors, plus an orange theme – seatbelts, speaker details and carpet mats – it also introduces Grip Control to the Cactus range.

This Peugeot-Citroën group gizmo uses a special traction control on the front driving wheels to deliver all-wheel drive capability – ideal for target customers wanting to reach less accessible beaches.

It's also a far cry from the abilities of that surfing icon, the classic VW Type 2 van or camper, not to mention prices: those for the venerable VW are now plain silly, while the Cactus Rip Curl starts at £18,480 for the petrol PureTech (110bhp) and £19,210 for the diesel BlueHDi 100 (95bhp) – surf boards not included.

Go for the price appeal of the former, an advanced turbocharged 1.2-litre three-cylinder that is economical yet punchy.

By contrast, the pricier 1.6-litre diesel is dearer and wallows more on the bends, no doubt due to the heavier engine.

Both powertrains are low emission and frugal though, helped by excellent weight-saving; the Cactus weighs around 200kg – equivalent to two average men – less than a standard C4 hatchback.

So it rides lightly on a standard steel suspension, keeping production costs down, while feeling smooth in the tradition of Citroën's famous hydro-pneumatic system.

There is some body lean on corners, forgiven because of the supple ride and that neither engine is intended for 'sporty driving'; this car aims more to deliver interest, image and space for little outlay – all factors likely to appeal to younger wannabe surfer buyers.

The unique 'Airbump' polyurethane side panels, come in many shades and can be changed later if you wish, but they are practical too, preventing needless car park damage.

But I would have extended the finish to the rearmost edge of the back doors to avoid Cactus occupants damaging other cars in turn.

The cavernous 358-litre boot –better than any family hatchback – can be expanded to a (seats folded) ultimate capacity of 1,170.

The cabin is funky with some slightly dodgy looking materials, but the overall feel is airy due to lots of glass. The passenger airbag has been cleverly re-located into the roof - perhaps triggering an industry trend - in order to solve 'the case of the disappearing glovebox' ie the glovebox lid or cover that disguises something so small it cannot even hold gloves let alone other stuff we would prefer to hide safely.

Citroën C4 Cactus PureTech 110 Rip Curl

Price:	from £18,480
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	Skoda Yeti Monte Carlo

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The critics' hatchback of the year, Citroën C4 Cactus, is now available in this exciting new edition. Merging its fluid lines and audacious personality with the thrill of board sports and spirit of freedom of Rip Curl it's going to make a splash, wherever it's seen. Bold graphics and body details are standard, as is the new and unique Grip Control function which adapts to all weather and surface conditions for you.

RIP CURL

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën C4 Cactus PureTech 82 manual Flair 5.6/50.4, 4/70.6, 4.6/61.4, 107. Lowest: Citroën C4 Cactus BlueHDi 100 S&S ETG6 Feel 3.9/72.4, 3.2/88.3, 3.4/83.1, 89. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

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Model shown is the Jeep Renegade 2.0 MultiJet II 140hp 4WD 75th Anniversary (Incl £700 Special Paint) at OTR £27,495. OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR JEEP RENEGADE RANGE MPG (L/100KM): EXTRA URBAN 47.9 (5.9) – 70.6 (4.0), URBAN 32.5 (8.7) – 55.4 (5.1), COMBINED 40.9 (6.9) – 64.2 (4.4), CO_2 EMISSIONS: 160 – 115 G/KM. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. *Customer deposit is £8,499. Jeep deposit is £2,000. Total deposit is £10,499. Optional Final Payment is £12,971. Contract Term is 24 months. Promotion available on new Renegade 75th Anniversary editions registered between 1st August and 30th September 2016. Jeep Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Jeep Horizon PCP. With Jeep Horizon you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only. Jeep Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors including Jeep Financial Services. Jeep® is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.

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La meccanica delle emozioni

Models shown are Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105 hp Progression including Alfa Red Special Paint at £475, OTR £14,535 & Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 hp at £19,225 OTR incl. Stromboli Grey Special Paint at £525. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa MiTo Progression & Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 29.7 – 64.2 mpg (9.5 – 4.4 l/100km); Extra Urban 54.3 – 97.4 mpg (5.2 – 2.9 l/100km); Combined 41.5 – 80.7 mpg (6.8 – 3.5 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 157 – 90 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. *Customer deposit is £999. Optional Final Payment is £3,813. Contract Term is 48 months. Promotion available on Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105 hp Progression including Alfa Red Special Paint at £475 between 1st August and 30th September 2016. ^Customer deposit is £1,549. Optional Final Payment is £5,823. Contract Term is 48 months. Promotion available on Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 hp at £19,225 OTR registered between 1st August and 30th September 2016. Alfa Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Alfa Romeo Preferenza PCP. With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in these examples) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only. We work with a number of creditors including Alfa Romeo Financial Services. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Castacrete Ltd trading as Stonecraft Paving Centre of Stone House, Dean Street, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 0PW is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Brunswick Road, Cobbs Wood Ind Est, Ashford, TN23 1EL

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

LICENSING ACT 2003

I Anna Petusko give notice that I am applying to Medway Council for the grant of a new premises licence for Lower Street Market, High Street Lower Stoke Rochester Kent ME3 9RD, in order to allow the following licensable activity: The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption off the premises only Monday to Sunday 07:00 HOURS to 22:00 HOURS. Any responsible authority or any other person wishing to make representations to the council must do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf Dock Road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR Tel: 01634 337107 or 337108 (where the application can be inspected during normal office hours) by 8th September 2016 licensing@medway.gov.uk. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

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Red ball name of the game for Kent

Sam Northeast's side have been knocked out of One-Day Cup

Cricket

By Mark Pennell
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HAVING now been knocked out of both white-ball campaigns, Kent are looking to continue their impressive county championship form and end the season on a high.

Thursday night's battling 11-run defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in a hard-fought Royal London Cup quarter final at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence means Kent's sole focus for the remainder of the season now rests with four-day cricket.

Though his side have proved to be the nearly men of limited overs cricket of limited overs cricket once again, a magnanimous Northeast conceded that a Yorkshire side crammed with eight England internationals had been the better side on the night.

"Their bowling attack just kept coming at us and with Adil Rashid coming back well at the end, he won them the game and got them over the line," said Northeast after his side's brave bid to chase down 257.

"It was a close finish and we gave it our all, but Yorkshire were the better side.

"We lost too many wickets in the first 20 overs to really compete in that final period. We gave a good show of it and I'm really proud of the boys but it just wasn't enough.

"After the start they got off to I thought we'd pegged them back really well to keep them to 256 for nine. It was a tough wicket and a little bit slower than I expected, although it did skid on a little at the end. That meant scoring 250-260 was always going to be a tough chase and at least we were in the hunt right until the end."

LEADER: Kent captain Sam Northeast

Northeast and co will now turn attentions to the last four matches of their red-ball campaign with two games on the road, including a trip to Bristol on Tuesday, and a brace of matches in Kent still to be fought out.

Having suffered only one Division 2 defeat all season – to leaders Essex at Chelmsford at the start of July – Northeast's third-placed side still harbour hopes of overhauling the top two and securing the one promotion slot for 2016.

Loan deal provides Moore quality for Dover

Football

DOVER Athletic have bolstered their ranks with the loan signing of Leyton Orient midfielder Sammy Moore.

The 28-year-old, who was born in Deal, Moore needs no introduction to Whites fans, spending two years with the club between 2008 and 2010, scoring 11 goals in 56 appearances before joining AFC Wimbledon.

Moore spent five seasons with the Dons, helping them earn promotion from what was then known as the Conference Premier.

While with the south London outfit, Moore made over 150 appearances and won the Player of the Year award in the 2011-12 season. He signed for League Two Orient in June 2015 and has made almost 30 appearances, scoring twice in that time.

BOSS: Chris Kinnear

Moore made a recent appearance at Crabble, coming on as a second half substitute in the Orient's 2-0 defeat in the pre-season friendly against Chris Kinnear's side last month.

The midfielder came through the youth ranks at Ipswich Town and during his time with the Tractor Boys spent a period on loan at Brentford.

He joined then Conference Premier side Stevenage Borough in 2008, before linking up with Dover.

Chris Kinnear's side will be looking to go one better in this campaign than last year, when they were narrowly beaten in the National League play-off semi-finals by Forest Green Rovers.

Sport Shorts

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Davies departs Stones on temporary contract

MAIDSTONE United's Callum Davies has joined fellow Kent non-league outfit Folkestone Invicta on loan.

The defender, who signed for the Stones from Gillingham in December 2015, will link-up with Neil Cugley's side until mid-November.

The Ryman Premier Division returnees are currently in second place with two wins from two.

Maidstone are enjoying life in the highest tier of non-league football after securing promotion last season in the most dramatic fashion.

Facing local rivals Ebbsfleet United in the National League South play-off final at Stonebridge Road, Jay Saunders' side equalised late in extra time before clinching victory on penalties.

With promotion came the challenge of upgrading the club's Gallagher Stadium, but supporters have donated thousands of pounds in recent weeks as part of the Stand up for the Stones campaign to help fund the construction of a new terrace at the ground.

STONES: On the up

HOME: Ebbsfleet United's Stonebridge Road

Former Arsenal youth player joins Ebbsfleet

EBBSFLEET United this week completed the signing of an international defender, once of Premier League giants Arsenal.

Right-back Marvin McCoy, 27, of Antigua & Barbuda, was most recently a teammate of Dave Winfield's at York City where he spent a season and a half, departing the former League Two club in January.

McCoy began his career in the youth ranks of the Gunners and Watford but it was at Wealdstone where he settled in 2008 and made a name for himself.

He then moved to York in 2014 where he added another 50 Football League appearances before departing Bootham Crescent last season and joining Daryl McMahon at Stonebridge Road.

Shakey gears up for latest test

SITTINGBOURNE rider Shaney 'Shakey' Byrne is not in British superbike action this weekend but will be preparing for a crucial battle over the bank holiday.

Byrne currently leads the standings with 231 points - a 25-point advantage over his closest rival, Leon Haslam – going into the next round at Cadwell Park on Saturday and will be looking to add to his four series titles.

The Be Wiser Ducati representative will not be the only Kentish rider in contention next weekend, however, with Sidcup's Josh Wainwright also set to compete.

He told KoS earlier this month that Cadwell Park, as well as his home circuit of Brands Hatch, was emerging as one of his favourite tracks in the competition.

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